

**INSIDE:** Prepping for Survival | Scoring an Apocalypse | Top Survival Shows | The Bug-out Bag | The Witcher 3

# GADGETS<sup>TM</sup> MAGAZINE

THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST TECH LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

Lauren Tamayo

Killer looks. Killer instincts.

## MODERN TECH WARRIOR

The Survival Issue

PHP 150



JUN2015 • VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 10

### REVIEWED:

California Eco Bike Malibu | Oppo Neo 5  
Lenovo A7000 | Starmobile Up Snap  
Samsung Galaxy S6 | LG Magna  
Toyota Wigo TRD | Chevrolet Malibu LTZ

LG G4

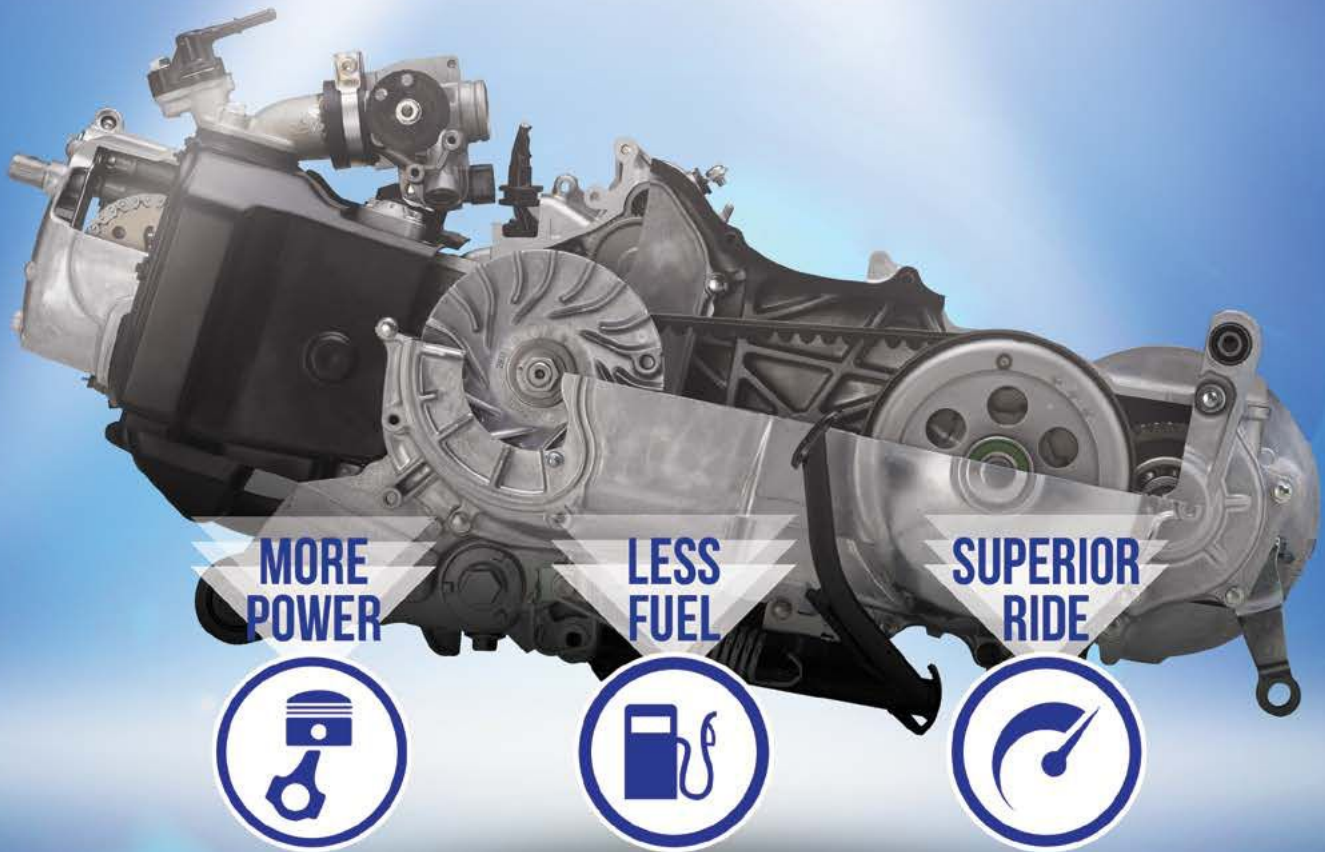
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*See the Great, Feel the Great*

# LG G4





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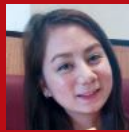
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**@lengdesuasido / @lengdrawsobjects**



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"Uggguh raaaaahhgh huuguughgh"  
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You're probably sitting at home or in the office, leafing through our pages with not a care in the world. What if disaster strikes suddenly? What if you call your friend and all you hear on the other end is "unhhh, blergh, brainssssss"? Or what if you're stuck in no man's land? Are you and yours prepared to face the challenge, or will you be sitting ducks waiting for help? This month in Gadgets Magazine, we attack common survival issues ranging from the probable to the bizarre so you'll be well-prepared for whatever damning scenario might befall you. If things take a turn for the worse, we'll see you on the other side, all right?

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### NIKON PHOTOWALK AT THE SAN ISIDRO PAHIYAS FESTIVAL

Team Gadgets recently participated in this year's Nikon Photowalk at the San Isidro Pahiyas Festival. Flip through the pages to know what went on.







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# COOLPIX



## I AM GOING THE DISTANCE



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### COOLPIX L340

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- Full HD video with 1080/60p format capabilities

**DUAL** DUAL DETECT OPTICAL VR  
**60x** OPTICAL ZOOM  
**VARI-ANGLE MONITOR**

### COOLPIX P610

- 120x Dynamic Fine Zoom
- 16.0-megapixel image sensor
- EVF with eye sensor
- Snap-back Zoom function
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At the heart of the image



**LG G4▶****Smartphone**

LG's newest flagship is here and it boasts a host of impressive features putting it at the top of the heap. It comes with a remarkable 16-megapixel laser auto-focus rear camera with f/1.8 aperture lens for improved low light photography, 8-megapixel front camera, Manual Mode which allows the user to tweak the LG G4's settings to produce photos closer to DSLR quality, and RAW image outputs. The LG G4 also has 3GB of RAM, a 3000mAh removable battery, and 32GB expandable memory with microSD slot all housed in durable, genuine, vegetable-tanned leather in three striking shades of black, brown, and red. If you prefer your G4 sleek, you can opt for the version with metallic back covers in black and gold, or the ceramic white with 3D diamond-cut detailing.

**PHP 32,990 (Genuine Leather)**

**PHP 31,990 (Metallic-finish)**

**◀ LG Magna  
Smartphone**

Taking after the genius of its higher-end sibling, the LG Magna sports a 5-inch in-cell touch display, a quad-core chipset, and an 8-megapixel rear camera and a 5-megapixel front camera; features usually seen on premium models. The Magna ships with the latest Android 5.0 Lollipop, and comes with features originally designed for the brand's premium smartphones including Knock Code, a rear-key design, Gesture Shot, and Glance View. The Magna sports a mild 3000mm radius curve for a sleeker profile, and allows it to better absorb shock when accidentally dropped. Other advantages of Magna's curved design is voice clarity, since it also follows the curve of the human face, immersive view, as well as fixed focus when using the front camera.

**PHP 10,990**





## LG 105UC9 ▲ UHD TV

There's big, there's massive, and there's LG's latest 105-inch curved UHDTV. The screen, which boasts a resolution of over 11 million pixels (5120 x 2160), and a CinemaScope 21:9 aspect ratio, is able to produce vivid, lifelike images that rival even the best commercial cinemas available to consumers today. The experience is made even better by LG's True 5K Engine Pro and IPS 5K Panel, which eliminates visual errors, and upscales lower-quality content so you get the best image possible every time you fire it up. The TV also has a built-in 7.2-channel, 150W LG ULTRA Surround system that was developed in partnership with renowned audio giant Harman Kardon. LG smart TV software, webOS, makes everything simple and fast, whether it's switching between content; discovering exciting new shows, apps and services; or connecting to media stored on external devices.



## ◀ Microsoft Lumia 640 XL Smartphone

The Lumia 640 XL, as its name suggests, offers huge convenience and portability to its users with its many productivity and personal computing features. Running Windows phone 8.1, Lumia 640 XL users will be some of the first to get an upgrade to Windows 10 when it rolls out later this year. Apart from the seamless Microsoft experience no other brand can offer, the 640 XL comes with 1GB of RAM and 8GB ROM (expandable via microSD card) under its hood, and powering its many functions is a quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 processor that clocks in at 1.2GHz. Rounding out the 640 XL are a 5.7-inch HD display, 3000mAh battery, 13MP rear and 5MP front-facing snappers, and dual-SIM slots. Features readily available out-of-the-box include Glance Screen, one-swipe Action Center, Word Flow, and Live Folders. Those who purchase the Lumia 640 XL will also get a one year free subscription to Office 365, and 1TB of OneDrive storage as added perks.

**PHP 11,990**

## Microsoft Lumia 540 ▶ Smartphone

Designed for the young, pro-active crowd, the Lumia 540 dual-SIM fits those looking to buy their first serious smartphone like a glove. It boasts the latest Windows Phone 8.1 OS and sports a crisp 5-inch HD display housed in a slim frame. Helping people stay productive on-the-go are its signature Microsoft services like Skype and Office, which are available out of the box. Its wide-angle front-facing 5MP camera makes for great selfies. Meanwhile its 8MP rear snapper with LED flash can capture vivid and sharp images. The new Lumia 540 dual-SIM comes in variants cyan, orange, white, and black.

**PHP 7,990**







## MiLi iData ▲ USB OTG

If you know what USB OTG is, take a look at the MiLi iData. Serving as an answer to the storage memory woes of iOS device users, the handy and slim iData makes it easy for those using Apple devices to manage their files. You can copy any type of file from your computing device and store it in the iData, akin to a regular USB flash drive: just connect and copy. When the iData is connected to your iOS device, you can then directly transfer the chosen file to your mobile via the iData app available for download on the App Store. The iData will be available in 16GB, 32GB, 64GB, and 128GB variants.

## ◀ MiLi Pure Skin Moisture Detector



Keeping your skin moisture in check is the MiLi Pure. This personal wellness device serves as your handy and portable skin-moisture detector. Wherever you are, the MiLi Pure can, within five seconds of contact, provide accurate skin moisture readings, telling you when it's time to hydrate or dab on your go-to moisturizer to keep your skin fresh and young-looking. Along with the device is a supporting application available for download on the App Store (MiLi Pure) that displays moisture data via Bluetooth connection. The Pure allows the user to record data from four different body areas: face, hands, neck, and eye region. It also records comparative data of before-and-after lotion/cream application, so you can gauge which product moistens your skin best. The MiLi Pure will be available for retail in the third quarter of this year.



## ◀ Halo Mathew Gadget Bag

When going outside, one of the main concerns is keeping your gadgets safe and that's what the Mathew is for. Made from light-weight and water-resistant material, this bag protects your precious gadgets from dust and moisture as you commute and go through your adventures. It comes designed with several compartment pockets for the organized traveler that you are. Its two-way zipper can be secured with a lock, while the back portion has a concealed pocket to keep your valuables safe. The Mathew sling bag is available in sizes 8.5-inch and 7.0-inch, in black, blue, red, gray, and violet.

**PHP 595 (Large)**  
**PHP 550 (Small)**

## Halo Irwan ▶ Phone Case

Just bought a new smartphone? You're not thinking of just throwing it in your bag, are you? Protect your phone from the wilderness inside your bag with the Halo Irwan. This phone case isn't just stylish, it also takes care of your gadget investment. It's wrapped in sophisticated leather making it great to carry on its own. Apart from a stylish design, it comes with an L-shaped zipper allowing easy access to your things, and a carabiner hook where you can insert the included necklace for hands-free carry. Irwan is available for phones with 4.5-inch and 5.7-inch screens. It also comes in five different colors: black, blue, brown, gray, and red.

**PHP 349 (Large)**  
**PHP 295 (Medium)**



## ◀ Halo Tracy Laptop Bag

Isn't it just convenient to have just one bag for your laptop and all other personal essentials? The Tracy is a versatile and stylish laptop bag that goes great with your casual clothes. It is made out of quality canvass material with a soft interior lining to keep your laptop pristine and scratch-free. Sling it over your shoulder with its detachable and adjustable strap, and keep small items safely in its concealed, zippered front pocket. Tracy's zippers and shoulder strap hooks are all made of powder coated metal making the laptop bag sturdy. It is available in five colors: black, blue, gray, red, and violet.

**PHP 895**





## ◀ Huawei Honor 6 Plus Smartphone

What's better than one rear camera? Two rear cameras! Huawei has just that in tow with their Honor 6 Plus. The brand's current flagship boasts dual 8MP primary cameras for bright and clear shots no matter the lighting situation, along with various camera features fit for every scene. Performance-wise, the device isn't a gimmick either as it's equipped with a 1.8GHz octa-core HiSilicon Kirin 925 processor, Mali-T628 MP4 GPU, 3GB RAM, 32GB expandable storage, and non-removable 3600mAh Li-Po battery. Moreover, it's dual-SIM, dual-LTE capable so you'll have blazing fast data no matter what network you're on. Move aside high megapixel counts, there's a new imaging star in town.

**PHP 17,490**

## Huawei Honor 4C ▶ Smartphone

This device from Huawei packs a super mean punch that belies its low price tag. It struts Huawei's own HiSilicon Kirin 620 octa-core processor clocked at 1.2GHz, 2GB of RAM, 8GB of expandable storage, 13MP and 5MP shooters, 2550mAh battery, and a 5-inch HD IPS display. Also standard with the Honor 4C are dual micro-SIM, dual 3G telephony; and Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, and GPS connectivity. With these impressive innards, you're sure to get the flagship experience two years back without the hefty bills associated with it. It truly is a great time to be a techie on a budget.

**PHP 6,390**





## ◀ **Lenovo A7000** Smartphone

If in years past affordable quad-cores were all the hype, now it's all about bang for the buck octa-cores. Lenovo's latest entry to this segment, the A7000, hits the sweet spot between performance and wallet-friendliness with its 1.5GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6752m processor, 2GB RAM, 8GB ROM, Mali-760 MP2 GPU, 8MP and 5MP snappers, and LTE capability—all innards previously only seen in higher price points. Additionally, Dolby Atmos Audio, a 2900mAh battery, and 5.5-inch HD IPS display are on board this Android 5.0 Lollipop device for the entertainment of multimedia junkies. We're almost sure that the A7000 has "worth it!" written all over its onyx black and pearl white color choices.

**PHP 7,390** (exclusively available at Lazada)

## **Felta Unite Value 2 in 1 ▶** Laptop/Tablet Hybrid

Touted as an educational tablet, the Unite Value 2 in 1 is powered by an Intel Baytrail quad-core processor paired with 2GB of RAM, and 32GB of on-board storage. Drawing your kid's attention is a 10-inch capacitive multi-touch display with a rich 1280x800 resolution that when undocked, stands alone as a tablet. It runs Windows 8.1 and ships with a hefty 5400mAh battery that will last its user at least a day away from the wall socket even with your child tapping away non-stop. Taking the substantial amount of energy kids possess into consideration, the Unite Value 2 in 1 sports a ruggedized, water resistant, and drop-resistant (up to 50cm) form factor which means it can withstand rough handling. It also comes with a handle so it can be easily lugged around. Also added to the loot are Wi-Fi connectivity, Bluetooth 4.0, dual snappers, and features such as various security softwares to safeguard children from online threats, macro lens that kids can use to explore objects, and a thermal scanner that can help teach them about their own bodies.

**PHP 9,995 to 20,995** (baseline model to higher-end models; only available through partner schools and institutions)





## California Eco Bike Malibu ►

Sometimes, it's the quick trips that are the most inconvenient. There's always that one place that's too close to take a car, but just far enough to be a pain to walk. California Eco Bike has the solution for that. Meet the Malibu. This personal transporter takes you places with its 25km range, at a top speed of 18kph. Got a few groceries to carry around? No problem. The Malibu has a total carrying capacity of 125kg, and comes with a one-year warranty, so you can scoot about with total peace of mind. It automatically balances, and is intuitive enough to just hop on and go. Just plug it in for a six to eight hour charge, and you're all set!

**PHP 68,000**



## ◀ Intel Compute Stick Mini PC

The term "Mini PC" doesn't really do justice to just how small this full-blown desktop device is. Arriving in a package about the same size as the 3G USB dongles of yore, the Intel Compute Stick promises a complete computing experience in an affordable, HDMI plug-and-play form factor. Its body houses a quad-core Intel Bay Trail Atom processor paired with either 2GB RAM and 32GB expandable ROM for the Windows variant; and 1GB RAM with 8GB expandable ROM for the Linux one. It also has Wi-Fi, USB and microUSB ports, and an AC power adapter, making it perfect for anything from a DIY home entertainment system to working on-the-go.



## TCL H9700 4K UHD Quantum Dot TV ▲ LED TV

Taking the brand's world-leading Quantum Dot innovation onto the local shelves, TCL has just introduced its first-ever Quantum Dot television, the 55-inch 4K UHD Quantum Dot TV (H9700). This means that the set is able to depict more of the RGB spectrum, from vivid colors to subtle tones, providing viewers greatly enhanced picture quality on par with OLED at a much competitive price point. Its exquisite industrial design goes perfectly with the set's top-class picture quality and immersive sound experience courtesy of an integrated cutting-edge 30W Harman Kardon speakers.



## ◀ Oppo Neo 5 Smartphone

Mid-range smartphones aren't usually the prettiest ones in a manufacturer's lineup, but Oppo's Neo 5 is clearly the exception to the trend. With a gorgeous faux-glass back, beautiful blue or white frame, and solid metal chassis, this is a mid-range device you're going to want to show off. With a 1.3GHz, quad-core processor, 1GB of RAM, and 8GB of storage, you're never going to be left wanting performance. Its 4.5-inch screen really allows the 8MP main snapper to shine, and Oppo's own ColorOS allows you to navigate the device as easily as you would stock Android, with a few extras thrown in. If you want looks and performance, the Oppo Neo 5 is worth your spending money.





## ◀ **Genius NS-6015** Wireless Mouse

Bid your tangle-prone mouse goodbye with the Genius NS-6015. Designed to be equally convenient for both lefties and righties, the NS-6015 features a 1000dpi optical engine for accurate control, bi-directional 2.4GHz wireless standard for connectivity up to 10 meters, and a 2-in-1 battery compartment which allows you to use either AA or AAA batteries to power the mouse. If you're concerned about longevity, a single AA battery is capable of running the show for up to 10 months. It comes in colors metallic red, blue, and sky blue variants to suit your workspace's design scheme.

**PHP 450**

## **Braven BRV-BANK ▼** Power Bank

Regular power banks are perfectly fine for the daily grind but when you're trekking mountains and getting lost in no man's land, you need a rugged battery pack that can withstand nature's harshest challenges. The Braven BRV-BANK is all that and more. Its IPX-5 water-resistant rubber exterior means it won't complain when it gets wet, nor will it flinch when bashed against a rock wall. It's also Bluetooth-enabled so you can regulate charging and view battery level straight from your phone. Lastly, the charging ports run at 2.4A so the BRV-BANK's 6,000mAh capacity can get your devices from 0 to 100 faster than you can catch your breath.

**PHP 5,850**



## Newton Kismet ▶

### Running Shoes

Though we like to think of ourselves as tough fighters, chances are we're going to instinctually run at the first sign of danger. To prepare for when that dark day comes, we need proper kicks designed to withstand every step down the asphalt. The Kismet from Newton not only promises a natural cadence for whoever wears it, it also guarantees a smooth run, courtesy of a seamless mesh upper, plush tongue and collar, breathable fabric lining, and fixed foam insoles. A stability shoe perfect for overpronators, it also boasts a highly responsive midsole cushion for trampoline-like strides. With all those features, you'll never want to take these shoes off.

**PHP 6,995**



## ◀ CamelBak Marathoner Redesigned Hydration Pack

Befitting the name, the Marathoner is for runners who like to keep a minimalist hydration system on their backs. This vest has an antidote reservoir that can carry up to 2 liters of water, perfect for 2-hour runs or more and comes with a Big Bite valve, HydroGuard technology, PureFlow tube, and an easy-to-clean wide mouth opening. Air mesh panels are integrated in the vest to keep things light and breathable while you're on the run. On the other hand, additional compartments—sweat-proof storage for gadgets, stretch-mesh envelope pocket for gels, and storage for two extra water bottles—located on the shoulder harnesses allow users to easily access their essentials without having to stop. Apart from a comfortable fit, users also get dual sternum straps for increased stability and an elastic top strap for a snug fit that won't hamper your breathing. It also comes with adjustable harnesses and drawstring compartments so you can doddle both the pack and reservoir down as your load gets lighter.



## WD My Cloud Expert Series ► Network Attached Storage

Photographers, videographers, graphic designers, and other creatives all share the one problem of producing high-quality, high-resolution outputs—file size. It's no secret that RAW images and 4K footage take up gigabytes upon gigabytes of data, so WD has come up with the My Cloud Expert Series for storing multimedia files. The products run on dual-core Marvell Armada 385 and 388 processors for fast read and write speeds, with data handling complemented by an integrated file server, FTP server, backup server, and P2P download server. Able to handle up to 24TB of storage, the Expert Series also arrives bundled with WD Red drives for easy RAID backups.

**PHP 13,999 (EX2100 diskless)**

**PHP 24,099 (EX2100 4TB)**

**PHP 32,399 (EX2100 8TB)**

**PHP 41,699 (EX2100 12TB)**

**PHP 22,699 (EX4100 diskless)**

**PHP 42,599 (EX4100 8TB)**

**PHP 59,999 (EX4100 16TB)**

**PHP 81,999 (EX4100 24TB)**



## Xiaomi Mi Pad ▼ Tablet

From the brand that brought flash sales into the mainstream comes another device that seeks to please performance junkies and frugal wallets alike. The Mi Pad features a large 7.9-inch IPS display with a 1536 x 2048 resolution, powerful 2.2GHz Nvidia Tegra K1 quad-core processor, an impressive 192-core GeForce Kepler GPU, 2GB of RAM, 16GB of expandable ROM, 8MP and 5MP cameras, and a sizeable 6700mAh battery. It's been reported to score almost 40,000 on Antutu Benchmark so if you're a large-screen power user, this zippy tablet is more than capable of keeping up with your whims and demands.

**PHP 10,999**





## ◀ Alcatel Flash Plus Smartphone

An affordable price tag and monster specs are two things that rarely go together, but when they do, techies like us are blown away. The dual-SIM Alcatel Flash Plus boasts a 64-bit octa-core processor clocked at 1.5GHz, a Mali-T760 MP2 GPU, and 2GB RAM for performance beyond its price point. Up front is a huge 5.5-inch HD IPS display perfect for viewing the shots from its 8MP wide-angle front camera with f2.4 aperture and 13MP rear camera equipped with a Sony IMX214 sensor. A flagship-beating 3500mAh Li-ion battery rounds up this mean little toy. All these are accompanied by a wallet-friendly price tag that's too good to resist.

**PHP 6,490**  
(exclusively available at Lazada)

## CloudPad Epic 8.9 ▶ Tablet

The CloudPad Epic 8.9 sports CloudFone's Crossover Technology, which makes it a dual-boot tablet that lets you run both Android 4.4 Kitkat and Windows 8.1. The CloudPad 8.9 parades a huge 8.9-inch full HD display, which makes it ideal for watching movies or playing graphic-intensive games. It comes with a 5MP rear shooter, 2MP front-facing camera, and is powered by a 1.8GHz quad-core Intel Atom processor. Onboard, it has got 32GB memory and 2GB of RAM, more than enough power and memory to satisfy your everyday needs.

**PHP 8,999**





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## BiGbytes 50

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# California Eco Bike Malibu

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

**During the course of your everyday, you'll find that sometimes, you're going to have to go places that are too close to drive, but a pain to have to walk. Quick trips to the grocery store, around campus, or down the street to your neighbor's house can all be infuriatingly close. That's okay. California Eco Bike has come up with its own take of the personal transporter in the Malibu: an electric two-wheeler that's equal parts interesting and actually quite useful. We had the good fortune to put the thing to the test, and here's what we think.**

## DESIGN ★★★★★☆

The Malibu is all business. It has one role in life, which is get you from point A to point B and back, so it wastes no effort on bells, whistles, or any other unnecessary accoutrements. Two wide and tubeless rubber wheels flank a platform, the center of which is home to a tall steering stick that tilts left or right, depending on the whims of the rider. A fender keeps dirt and debris from messing your khakis up, and large tubular guards make sure you don't inadvertently misstep and place your feet or legs near the tires while piloting the vehicle. There are no visible controls on the Malibu, save for a large power switch on the base, and a key to reset the vehicle's controller. It's a nice combination of brushed metal and black, with just a splash of red thrown in for good measure.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★☆

The Malibu runs two, brushed 750W DC motors powered by three 12v, 12Ah lead-acid batteries. While we haven't quite found a scale large enough to figure out how heavy the Malibu is, suffice it to say you're not likely to be doing anything except rolling this to places.

There are no inputs on the device either, except for a single power plug that accepts a proprietary charger that comes with the unit. The other end of the charger goes straight into a wall outlet, giving you a full charge in under eight hours. To let you know how much power is left, the Malibu has a power indicator on the base of the steering stem, so you know roughly how much range you have left.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★★

The prospect of riding a vehicle such as the Malibu was a little scary at first. While I had tried similar vehicles in the past, putting my trust in what is, at the time of writing, a relatively new machine from a new-ish brand is another thing altogether. After an overnight charge and a deep breath, I flicked the power switch on, waited for the Malibu to balance, and stepped gingerly on the platform.

And nothing happened. I stood there, and the Malibu did the same. I didn't have to balance, or really do anything at all. It was rock steady. It was very impressive; I was relieved.

Once my amusement over the auto-balancing magic had died down sufficiently, I leaned forward gingerly. Without any hesitation, the Malibu crept forward ever so slightly. Straightening up stopped the motion,

and I was back standing dead-still. I made my way to a barely-used road at BGC, and started to practice in earnest. Once you have a little courage built up, you can lean as far forward as you dare. The Malibu quickly picks up speed, but immediately dials it back when it senses you're leaning a little too far forward, and going a bit too fast. Even at speed, I could very easily snap back, straightening my body and pulling back on the stick to stop almost on the spot.

Turning is just as simple. Hang on to the handlebars, and lean your body in the direction you want to turn, taking the stick with you, and it goes. You might want to take care when doing this at speed, as your body is naturally going to want to resist the change in direction. I found that the more I trusted the machine, the easier the ride was.

After one or two rounds around the block, I was confident enough to actually take the Malibu around. I went all the way from the SM Aura area to High Street, travelling along sidewalks, crossing streets, and dodging obstacles on the way. I was at no point in fear for my safety, and felt totally in control the whole time.

Before long, I was able to get very fine control over the Malibu. I could back up and stop just before touching a wall; move slow and stop to pick something off a ledge; and even walk the dog without running it over (though you'd better not try that last one unless you have an exceptionally well-behaved dog).

I had no difficulty with the Malibu at all, though backing up while turning did take a little getting used to. As long as you make sure to go about it slowly, you should be just fine. It can be disorienting, and you may have to step off, but keep at it, and it'll cooperate. The first test unit sent over also had a problem, likely from some hard use by the previous reviewer. California Eco Bike was very quick to address the problem though, sending over technicians and a replacement unit with no delay. I was hoping for such great service, and I am quite happy to say I wasn't disappointed.

I spent my time with the Malibu running various tasks, from going to get coffee a few blocks farther than usual, fetching takeout from a place we'd normally have to drive to, and even volunteering to come along to take the dog out without feeling bad about it.

It's able to handle reasonably high bumps and potholes, though you're going to want to slow down a bit before you attack them. Also, be aware that once it starts to limit its speed (which happens at about



13kph) it's going to slow down and straighten up. You might feel like you're going to fall over, but you won't, so don't fight it or else you might end up jumping off as the Malibu tries to fight your own corrections.

## VALUE ★★★★★☆

There are other vehicles like this in the market, but none come at the price point the Malibu does. At PHP 68,000, it's a fraction of the price of any other, similar machine. It does practically the same thing, and it's so much fun. If you find yourself to be the kind of person to have to frequently make short, quick trips to nearby places, it's actually not a bad deal. Just make sure you have a place to park.

## BOTTOMLINE

Now waiting for my Christmas bonus.

### SPECIFICATIONS:

Rated Power: 1500 watts  
Rated Voltage: 36v  
Battery Capacity: 12Ah  
Battery Type: Lead-Acid  
Charging Time: 5 to 8 hours  
Max Climbing Capability: 30-degrees  
Load Capacity: 125kg  
Speed: Up to 18kph  
Riding Distance: Up to 25km  
Tires: 19-inch tubeless off-road tires

### What's Hot:

- So much fun
- Actually very usable
- Easy to pick up and go

### What's Not:

- Takes some trust to ride
- Going backwards is a new skill you have to learn



# Lenovo A7000

Reviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo

**Money doesn't grow on trees. If it did, I'd be sleeping in a bed made out of flagship phones, eating out of a flagship phone plate, and driving to work in a flagship phone-covered car. Though some people can certainly afford to do those things, most of us can't. Luckily, technology has progressed to the point that the most important specs people look for—powerful processors, quality cameras, fast data, and long-lasting battery—are now available at unbelievably low prices. The Lenovo A7000 is one example of this milestone, but does it please or is it just a hype monkey? We put it to the test.**



## DESIGN ★★★★★

Our review unit came in an onyx black finish (a pearl white option is also available) and let me tell you, it looks really beautiful. It's easily one of the best lookers among the phones in the same price point and if you didn't know any better, you'd mistake it for a PHP 10,000+ mobile. Though you can pop off the back to gain access to the battery, micro-SIM slots, and microSD slot, the unibody design enables the device to look seamless and premium.

The A7000 is minimalistic and its body is made out of polycarbonate with the exception of the glass front. The black is sleek, disturbed only by the Lenovo marque, corner-positioned rear camera with LED flash, microphone pinhole, and inconspicuous speaker grille. On its right edge is the volume rocker and power button, while up top is the microUSB port and headset jack. The left edge is devoid of features.

On the front is the sizeable 5.5-inch display surrounded by fairly thin bezels. Below are the app switcher, home, and back capacitive keys; and above it are the proximity sensor, call speaker grille, front facing camera, and LED notification light.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

During the past two to three years, quad-core processors dominated the mid-range market, and decent octa-cores only existed for those who could afford them. All of a sudden, eight core devices paired with other impressive specs are taking the spotlight, and consumers now have a myriad of smartphones to choose from.

The A7000 makes a strong case for why it should be your next purchase. On top of the 1.5GHz octa-core MediaTek processor, Mali-760 MP2 GPU, 2GB RAM, 2900mAh battery, and 8MP and 5MP snappers, you have an unyielding build that feels nice in the hand. It doesn't creak at all and its outer shell seems reinforced, two good signs of a device that's well put together.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

If you're transitioning from a lower-end phone, then the A7000 will blow you away. It's easily a lightning-quick performer, and you have to stack some CPU- and GPU-intensive tasks to see any sign of slowdown. It scored above 40,000 in Antutu Benchmark and lasted more than 7 hours in PC Mark's standard battery test. Though performance is great, you'd have to remove/disable some preinstalled bloatware if you want to squeeze every last ounce of power out of the A7000.

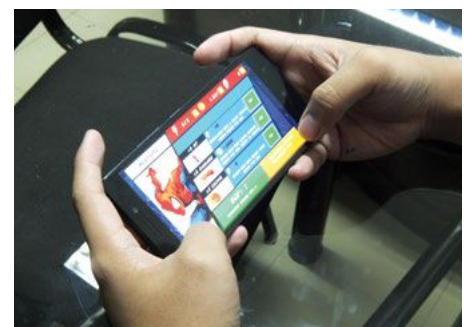
The main draw of the A7000 is its Dolby Atmos audio technology which makes audio engaging, whether from your music tracks or videos. You will need a decent pair of cans to really appreciate the added oomph though, as the included headset in the package is your run of the mill obligatory add-on, and the phone's built-in speakers are a little on the soft side.

Still, the A7000 manages to provide a surprisingly pleasing multimedia experience (provided you're using audio peripherals). The screen is vibrant, and the bezels are thin enough as to not distract from all the action going on. Outputs are sharp and colorful, and you shouldn't notice any unsightly pixels if what you're viewing is at least in HD resolution.

However, the device isn't perfect. The main camera struggles at times in locking focus on subjects. It also had a hard time capturing colors in scenes with different lighting levels. I can't really fault the A7000 for that, though; it isn't marketed as one for the shutterbugs after all.

## VALUE ★★★★★

Available through Lazada for PHP 7,390, the A7000 certainly brings you your money's worth. Not only do you have a pocket rocket with beefy specs, you also get a portable multimedia player with a gorgeous display and immersive Dolby Atmos audio. Though there are some cheaper alternatives with almost the same innards, Lenovo's bang for the buck offering is solidly built, and I'd be more than happy to shell out a couple hundred bucks more for a phone that won't easily snap in half.



### SPECIFICATIONS:

Operating System: Android 5.0 Lollipop  
Physical Dimensions: 152.6 x 76.2 x 7.99mm (H x W x D)  
Weight: 140g  
Processor: 1.5GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6752m  
GPU: Mali-760 MP2 GPU  
Display: 5.5-inch HD IPS, 1280 x 720 pixels, 5-point multitouch  
Cameras: 8MP rear camera with LED flash; 5MP front camera  
Internal Memory: 2GB RAM, 8GB expandable storage  
Battery: Removable 2900mAh Li-Po  
Connectivity: Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g/n, hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, dual micro-SIM with LTE

### What's Hot:

- A steal for the price
- Dolby Atmos plus huge screen plus long-lasting battery equals hours of multimedia fun

### What's Not:

- Lenovo's custom UI is a bit rigid
- Camera quality is so-so

## BOTTOMLINE

Here's your next octa-core.

# LG Magna

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

**As is the way of things, specs that were once only available to top-tier devices have finally trickled down to handsets with prices that are more reasonable for the budget-restrained to accept. As of late, LG has been a company that has constantly innovated, which is especially great for the mid-range market. Today, we review one of their more recent offerings, the curved(!), LTE (!!)** dual-SIM Magna.

## DESIGN ★★★★★☆

Taking cues from both the Curve and LG G2/3/4 series of devices, the Magna has a very gentle 3000mm curve on the screen, and controls located on the rear of the device. The front of the screen is beautifully bare, with a notification light, the LG logo, speaker grille, and front camera. Searching for the keys, you'll find that they are rendered on the screen, so the visual clutter is kept to an absolute minimum. The rear case is plastic, though finished with almost the same texture as the G3. This gives it a look that's far more premium than the price tag might lead you to believe. The back pops off to give you access to the SIM trays, microSD card, and removable battery, should you want to swap any of those out. It's one of the better-looking phones in its price range, and something I appreciate quite a bit.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★☆

First and foremost, the Magna is an LTE device. This immediately gives it a leg up over many of the other devices in its segment. On top of this, it has a curved, 5-inch, 720 x 1280 IPS LCD screen that's actually quite easy on the eyes. 294ppi might not be breaking any records, but it's more than adequate.

Running the phone is a Mediatek MT6582 quad-core processor ticking along at 1.3GHz, and a Mali-400MP2 GPU. It has 1GB of RAM, and has 8GB of internal memory, expandable up to 32GB via microSD. The camera is an 8MP deal, and it's backed up by a very capable 5MP front camera, just in case the urge to take a selfie overcomes you.

In charge of keeping the phone running is a 2540mAh battery. It seems a little light for this phone given the screen size, resolution and dual-SIM (with LTE) connectivity, but we'll get to that in a bit. You also get GPS connectivity, Wi-Fi b/g/n, and Bluetooth 4.1.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★☆

As the first non-top tier device (to my knowledge) to feature a curved screen, I was curious about the Magna. When you pick it up and use it, the curve is barely perceptible to the eye, but you do feel a difference. More pronounced is the curve of the back, which makes the phone sit extremely well in your hand. It's one of those phones that, although plastic, feels particularly nice to hold. The raised

edge of the bezel is a little too obtrusive for my taste, and dampens the feel slightly.

The UI is done with LG's usual overlay. It's a love-it or hate-it thing, and I'm squarely in the "love it" camp, though perhaps with a new launcher. It doesn't depart from the usual Android interface too much, though bears a little more bloatware than other devices. It shouldn't matter to anyone but the most hardcore users.

My personal phone is a G3, and I'm quite happy with it. Having used it primarily for quite some time now, I must say that the experience is not that far removed. The Magna has LTE connectivity, which is at least as reliable as the G3's, the button layout is the same, and it even feels very similar. While it does pack a different processor and less RAM, it doesn't hamper any of my daily tasks. Sure, I might not get the same benchmarks, but as a daily driver, this does just fine. Plus, dual SIM slots! Even with LTE and two SIM cards, the battery managed a whole day of use, though by the time I got home, it was on its last legs.

The camera of the Magna is a little on the weaker side. It takes a little bit of time for the camera to focus, and works better in brighter conditions. It's a capable camera, though perhaps not the best in its class.

Overall though, I am quite pleased with the performance of the Magna. It's great to hold, looks nice, all the while doing its job. How can you not like that deal?

## VALUE ★★★★★☆

For all the bonuses, it's a little on the pricey side of the mid-range spectrum. The curve is nice, and LTE is even nicer, but the market has a lot of those. What makes this a better deal is the LG name. With it, you're assured of service, support, and parts, should something go wrong. It's really quite nice, and I wouldn't mind using it on a regular basis.

## BOTTOMLINE

If you have a little extra cash to burn, this would make an excellent daily driver.



### SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 5.50 x 2.75 x 0.40 inches  
Weight: 137g  
Screen size: 5.0 inches, 720 x 1280 pixels, 294ppi pixel density  
Processor: Quad-core 1.3GHz Cortex-A7  
RAM: 1GB  
Storage: 8GB  
Connectivity: GSM/HSPA/LTE, Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.1, GPS  
Camera: 8MP/5MP

### What's Hot:

- Pretty form
- LG support
- Dual sim with LTE

### What's Not:

- On the pricey side



# Oppo Neo 5

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

**More and more, we see devices that look, feel, and act alike. It takes a lot to separate a device from the crowd, and Oppo has always been keen on doing just that. After proving their flagship capabilities by releasing the impossibly thin R5, Oppo is now keen on taking on other market segments with their latest line of phones, one of which is the gorgeous Neo 5. Can it keep pace with the rest of the formidable players in this space? Let's find out.**



## DESIGN ★★★★★

The Oppo Neo 5 is a mid-range device that looks much better than its price tag lets on. It's small, and has the straight lines and gentle curves that are so popular with smartphones of late. It feels thinner in the hand than other smartphones its size, and has a bare front, save for three capacitive buttons just below the screen. Hardware buttons are just as few. The Neo has a power button on the left side, and a volume rocker on the right, just within reach of your index finger and thumb, respectively. The Neo 5 has two cameras: an 8MP main snapper on the back, and a 2MP deal at the front.

Our unit has a lovely deep blue frame, which I thought was a glass back panel. It was convincing enough to have me fooled until I realized I would have to remove it to access the SIM trays. It's of little concern though. Behind the panel is a sturdy metal frame which gives the device exceptional rigidity, though at the cost of a non-removable battery. The trade-off, which is that it felt solid in my hand, is worth it.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

The Neo 5 packs the MediaTek MT6528, quad-core processor that runs at a healthy 1.3GHz, 1GB of RAM, and a reasonably large 2000mAh battery. The screen is a manageable 4.5-inches large, and has a resolution of 854 x 480 pixels. The 8MP camera does come with an LED flash, and has an aperture of f/2.2. It's also capable of 720p video recording. To store all your content, you have 8GB on-board, and if that's not enough, you have a microSD slot that can support cards up to 32GB large. It's squarely in midrange territory, and is more than happy to fill that niche.

The Neo 5 also has GSM and WCDMA connectivity, Wi-Fi b/g/n and Bluetooth 4.0 support.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

The first thing I liked about this phone was how it looked. The faux glass back, black and deep blue color combination, and clean lines all appealed to the minimalist in me. It also felt great to hold—which isn't something you often get in phones at this price range.

The screen, while a little behind on paper, also surprised me. The IPS TFT display has lots of brightness, is dense enough so as not to see individual pixels, and strikes a good balance between size and usability.

It runs Oppo's ColorOS, which is a lightly modified version of Android 4.4.2. While a little different from stock Android, users are unlikely to feel lost using it. The launcher doesn't have an app drawer though, so if you're the kind to get a little

O.C. about that sort of thing, you might want to consider installing a third-party solution to tackle that.

Oppo has done a little bit of modification to the notification shade, allowing you better access to a lot of the important system functions. It's a little different from stock Android, but quite useful just the same. Along with the other add-ons, they've baked in gesture support. From the lock screen, a double tap wakes the device, and drawing a circle launches the camera. You can also teach it additional gestures, so you can go straight to a few important apps right from a sleeping device. Gesture controls take a little moment to launch, though not so long as to have you tapping your foot impatiently.

The Neo seems to have put a premium on photography. The stock camera app comes with a built-in beauty mode, HDR, Panorama, and GIF recording. They're all handy, easy to activate, and don't get in the way if all you need is a quick snapshot. I found myself using the additional camera features of the Neo 5 more than the extras on other phones I have tested.

The combination of a sedate processor and large battery gives the Neo 5 more than decent longevity. On a full charge, I was able to get about two days of use, though with only one line live. This brings me to a little niggle I have with the device. It uses a nanoSIM. I know, I know. Everyone felt the same when microSIMs started coming out, and it's not a major thing for some people, but I would have much rather two microSIM slots instead. Those of you who intend to get this phone should not take this as a deal-breaker, but it's certainly something to be aware of.

## VALUE ★★★★★

For the price, which is just a hair under PHP 7,000, this is a lot of phone. Are there other options out there? Sure. The mid-range market is a very healthy one. I would, however, go so far as to say that this looks better than most of them and certainly feels a lot more solid. The ColorOS implementation is well-done, with little bloatware, and it has some decent battery life. All-in-all, you have a nice, no-frills phone, that does its job, and looks good doing it, and that's better than a lot of the other options out there.

## BOTTOMLINE

**If you want a simple phone that has a capable camera, this is worth looking at.**

### SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 132 x 65.8 x 9.2mm  
Weight: 132.5g  
Screen: 4.5-inches, 854 x 480 pixels  
CPU: MediaTek MT6582 quad-core 1.3GHz  
RAM: 1GB  
Storage: 8GB, microSD slot, up to 32GB  
Battery: 2000mAh  
Connectivity: GSM:  
850/900/1800/1900MHz, WCDMA:  
850/900/2100MHz, Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS  
Camera: 8MP main, 2MP front

### What's Hot:

- Great third-party OS overlay
- Great battery life
- Great camera app

### What's Not:

- Has some pretty stiff competition at the price
- One of two sim trays is a nanoSIM

# Samsung Galaxy S6

Reviewed by Mia Carisse Barrientos



**Regardless of the brand, what makes people stop and take a closer look at a smartphone? A unique design. What's in a smartphone, then that urges people to make a purchase? Impressive hardware. We spent a week carrying Samsung's newest flagship around and the one thing we are absolutely sure of is that the S6 has both. Why? Read on.**

## DESIGN ★★★★★☆

If you've been closely keeping an eye on the smartphone market, you'll notice that in terms of design, there's not one phone that is head and shoulders distinct from the others. Some may stand out, but as soon as you get a closer look, you'll be hit with a sense of *déjà vu*, making you feel like you've seen this phone before. That's the impression we had upon laying our hands on the S6. Not being biased to a certain fruit brand, but the resemblance is not even subtle, it was obvious. Nonetheless, it's a good looking phone; no complaints here.

There's no doubt that the Galaxy S6 is a solid flagship phone. It's a slim, sturdy, and gorgeous piece of tech that isn't too flashy nor lacking in terms of aesthetics. Rid of the plastic-rims the brand was previously known for, the S6 comes with a polished aluminum border accented with strips of white on top and on the bottom giving it an air of sophistication. The front is dominated by its display with Gorilla Glass 4; bezels are slim, giving way for a larger screen. Along with it are sensors, a 5MP camera, and two soft keys with a physical button in the middle. On the sides are volume keys, speaker grille, audio jack, power/lock button, and a nano-SIM slot that pops open with a firm poke of a paperclip, or the included tool. On the back are another slice of tough Gorilla Glass 4, 16MP snapper in the middle, and a heart rate sensor and flash beside it.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★☆

With a unibody design, the removable back we were all used to is now a thing of the past. Basically, that also means that you can no longer swap out the battery, a change I am not particularly fond of. There also isn't an option for memory expansion as there isn't a microSD slot, though a USB OTG device sheds light on this matter.

Taking after its predecessor, the S6's home button doubles as a fingerprint scanner for added security. So far I've lost most of my battles with smartphone fingerprint scanners, but surprisingly I was able to use the S6's without a hitch. Out of the box, you start up the phone, pass through initial setup, and around the last part you'll be prompted with an option to activate the scanner. If you choose to do so, you'll have to scan your preferred finger until the phone successfully registers your print, and place the registered finger to unlock or trigger other features. If it doesn't work, you can always select other security options.

Inside the S6 is an undeniable sheer processing power. It comes built with 64-bit architecture, advanced Mali-T760MP8 GPU, Exynos 7420 octa-core processor, and 3GB RAM. Brownie points to Samsung for putting all this together.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★☆

Let me just say that everything's going to be positive from here. Apart from the stunning build of the S6 I was also impressed by this flagship's fast and smooth performance. Layered on top of Android Lollipop is Samsung's TouchWiz skin, which is quite efficient, eye-pleasing, and responsive to use. There isn't much to say about it so let's move along.

Honestly, I'm a sucker for phones with stunning displays and cameras, and the S6 has both. The Galaxy S6 parades a 5.1-inch Quad HD Super AMOLED display that serves you 2560x1440 and 577ppi resolution. Just navigating through the phone gives an utterly fantastic experience, so what more when you actually play a movie, or graphics-intensive games on it. Turning it from any angle renders visual delight, offering more than just crisp, bright, and vivid images.

Similar to the S5, the megapixel count of S6's rear snapper is still 16MP. Aided by its Optical Image Stabilization, wider aperture, and modified camera interface, images come out sharp and detailed with eye-popping colors even in poorly-lit areas. While I always comment about Samsung's mediocre front camera, the photography (selfie) experience in the S6 was rather improved. If you are way past basic snapshot phase, the camera interface comes with a pro mode that allows you control over focus, ISO, and other settings. You can also shoot videos with 4K resolution and slow-motion footage with the S6, which are pleasant additions for when you just feel like capturing things.

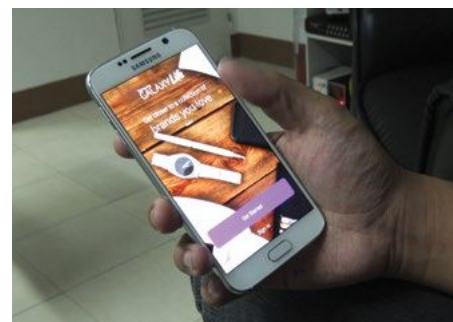
The S6's zippy experience was sealed by its super fast processing power. Multitask, play games, listen to music, browse through your social media feeds, repeat the process; the S6 will handle all those tasks without a hitch.

## VALUE ★★★★★☆

The Samsung Galaxy S6 is a top-of-the-line flagship phone that delivers in every aspect. It's a beauty on the outside and a beast on the inside, add to that it also has a built-in wireless charging feature so you can juice up and go.

## BOTTOMLINE

2014 was a tough year for Samsung but the S6 might be their ticket to bounce back to the top.



### SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 143.4 x 70.5 x 6.8mm  
Weight: 138g  
SIM: Nano-SIM  
Display: 5.1-inch Quad HD Super AMOLED, 1440x2560 pixels (577ppi pixel density)  
Operating System: Android 5.0.2 Lollipop  
Processor: 64-bit octa-core  
Cameras: 16MP OIS rear, 5MP front-facing  
Battery capacity: 2550mAh, non-removable  
Storage: 32GB internal, 3GB RAM

### What's Hot:

- Premium design and features
- Solid build
- Excellent display, camera, and speed

### What's Not:

- Non-removable back and battery
- Lack of SD card slot



# Starmobile Up Snap

Reviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo

**Smartphones, with their slender frames and light bodies, can't really replace proper point-and-shoots and full-blown DSLRs. Though some manufacturers have gotten mobile imaging right, their devices often carry heavy price tags that are unreasonable for all but the most rabid enthusiasts. Starmobile's looking to democratize phoneography by releasing the Up Snap, the first locally-branded phone to feature the fancy UltraPixel camera tech. We find out if it will encourage you to either snap or nap.**

## DESIGN ★★★★★

The Starmobile Up Snap had me reminiscing about the smartphones of the past: big, bulky, and almost impossible to pocket. While I wasn't head over heels on its looks, the Up Snap did have one advantage caused by its size—it's not easily lost in the bag.

The unit sent to us was clad in white, though aqua blue and dark blue options are also available. There's chrome lining around the edges that serves as both fancy bling and border between the front and removable back. The usual periphery of buttons, ports, and cameras are right where you'd expect them to be as well.

I don't really mind a big phone, but when the bezels are crazy thick all around, it distracts from the overall experience. The Up Snap's side bezels I can accept, but the ones above and below the screen are a bit too much. If the device shaved a couple of millimeters off the top and bottom, it would have gotten higher marks here.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

Some fairly standard, if a little outdated, hardware occupy the Up Snap's innards. On board are the 1.2GHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A7 processor mated with a VideoCore IV GPU and 1GB of RAM, along with 8GB of microSD expandable storage. Meanwhile, the 5-inch IPS screen is a 196ppi affair. Nope, that's not a typo.

Don't go snubbing this one right away as there's a logical reason behind the choice of specs. It's one of the few systems-on-chips that can run the UltraPixel technology. Additionally, a better screen will likely put more stress on the processors leading to sluggish performance. The upside is that the 2900mAh battery will last far, far longer compared to other phones that use better SoCs.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

I always advocate the "low expectations, high happiness" philosophy, and boy, did that stand true with the Up Snap. The phone was notably responsive, and casual users will find that their everyday bouts of Facebook, Twitter, and the occasional Candy Crush or Clash of Clans will be smooth for the most part. The processor is easily pushed to its limits though, especially when you've multiple apps running in the background and a lot of things are happening on screen at the same time.

The Up Snap is billed as a mobile photographer's best friend, with its 8MP UltraPixel camera promising better low light shots and overall brighter photos. We put that to the test during last month's San Isidro Pahiyas Festival at Lucban, Quezon. Colorful decorations, a wild atmosphere, and tons of subjects to snap made the annual fiesta the perfect venue to make the Up Snap honest.

Though it was overcast that day, the phone did a great job taking in a lot of light, capturing great looking shots with punchy colors and some impressive depth of field. However, you'd have to transfer photos to a computer in order to fully appreciate what the UltraPixel sensor is capable of. Just don't zoom in because you'll quickly see tons of image noise.



## VALUE ★★★★★

Priced at PHP 5,990 the Up Snap treads the thin line between "worth it" and "pushing its luck." The specs can and will leave you wanting more, but the UltraPixel camera is noticeably better than other phones around the same cost of admission. If you love taking pictures, then that maybe reason enough for you to get this device. Power users, you might consider looking elsewhere.

## BOTTOMLINE

UltraPixel tech. That's not something you see every day.



### SPECIFICATIONS:

Operating System: Android 4.4 KitKat  
Physical Dimensions: 147 x 73 x 9.5mm (H x W x D)  
Weight: 140g  
Processor: 1.2GHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A7  
GPU: Broadcomm VideoCore IV  
Display: 5-inch IPS, 480 X 854 pixels, 196ppi  
Cameras: 8MP rear camera with UltraPixel sensor; 5MP front camera  
Internal Memory: 1GB RAM, 8GB expandable storage  
Battery: Non-removable 2900mAh Li-Po  
Connectivity: Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g/n, hotspot, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, dual-SIM with LTE

### What's Hot:

- UltraPixel camera delivers
- Battery life is amazing

### What's Not:

- Underwhelming performance
- Screen is not something to be proud of

Stud Earrings Pack by **River Island**  
Triangle Cord Chained Necklace and  
Printed Maxi Dress by **Something Borrowed**  
(available at **ZALORA**)





# KILLER LOOKS

# KILLER INSTINCTS

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

The world's full of elements that are sadly anti-human. Feral fauna, poisonous flora, chilling storms, damning earthquakes; you name it, Mother Nature has it. If that wasn't enough, humans are always cooking up sci-fi apocalypses that somehow all seem to revolve around aliens, pathogens, viruses, mindless zombies, and anarchy.

When those kinds of odds are stacked against you, a driving motivation will be the difference between succumbing to fate and giving the reaper a rain check. Leaf through the next couple of pages and see if Lauren Tamayo, this month's fierce beauty, and the season's most gorgeous gadgets can't inspire you to brave Earth's toughest challenges.

Photography by **Ria Regino**  
Art Direction and Styling by **Leng Desuasido**  
Assisted by **Jonah Mendoza**  
Hair and Make Up by **Boombie Bartolome**  
Model: **Lauren Tamayo** of **Titan Model Management**

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Printed Maxi Dress, and Lace Up Open  
Toe Heels by **Something Borrowed**  
(available at **ZALORA**)





### LG G4

If you thought the G3 was good, wait until you get your hands on this bad boy.

Stackable Ring Sets by **Something Borrowed**  
Black Necklace Trim Maxi Dress by **River Island**  
(available at **ZALORA**)



# SPIRITED HEROINE

Interview by Mia Carisse Barrientos

Female empowerment is all the buzz these days. It is at an all-time high, and in recent years, go-getting female role models have been taking over modern culture. Watch the news, movies, and read dystopian fiction and you'll notice the influx of strong female characters on the big screen, literature, and even in real life. At this point, it's not even a question if women will be able to live through the zombie apocalypse, because they will and they'll kick some serious undead butt.

On the day of the shoot our team practically broke out in cold sweat upon learning that the model we booked wasn't available that day. Nonetheless, the odds were in our favor when the 5'10, 21-year-old stunner Lauren Tamayo was able to take her place at the last minute. She is, in every way, a warrior princess clad in casual wear. Right there and then, we knew she'd fit our concept like a glove.

Having an appointment earlier that day, Lauren braved the traffic from Manila to QC just to make it in time for our shoot. We would have understood if she was tired and needed time to normalize her breathing, but without skipping a beat, she sat on the make-up chair, studied the pegs, warmed up, and attacked the shoot like it posed no challenge to her. Turns out Lauren's a fan of gladiator themes, so it comes as no surprise that she nailed the shoot like she was Xena in her previous life.

Lauren shared that concept-centered shoots like this one push her out of her comfort zone as she gets to be a character different from herself, and learns to own it. When asked how she'd fare in the event of a zombie apocalypse, laughing Lauren confessed she thinks she wouldn't make it that far, as survival stuff isn't really her forte. "I can do little things: hunt, fish, and cook, but when it comes to running away (from zombies), I just couldn't." We beg to differ. If she's anything like the Lauren you see on these pages, give her a machete, and she'll do just fine.

Beaded Kimono and Beaded  
Chiffon Dress by H&M





# Prepping for Survival

Words by Team Gadgets

**Modern living has made us complacent. Apart from the two-legged kind, we needn't worry about predators, poor weather or even accidents, as long as we're careful enough. The thing is, we're all a fault line, butterfly's wing, zombie bite, or act of nature away from disaster. Preparation is key. Whether on the road, in the air, or at home, there are things we can do so we can quickly get back on our feet should life catch us off-guard. In this month's Cover Story, we look at what we need to bear in mind if we intend to survive.**

# Preparing for a Trip

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

Travelling to new places is always a fun experience, and we don't have to elaborate further for you to get what we mean. What takes place before the fun happens is a different story. People, with the exception of those who find joy in planning and organizing stuff, often dread the gap between preparing for the trip and the arrival.

It's easy to throw in clothes, food, and whatnot in your travel bag, but it gets tricky if you have to travel for days overseas. No matter where you're headed, whether you're hyper-organized or an impulsive holiday-maker, carefully mapping out your travel will benefit you when you're faced with bumps along your trip.

## Pre-travel preparation

Wrapping your head around things you have to do beforehand can be rather tortuous. Though throwing caution to the wind might work for some, no one wants to be walking the sidewalks of who knows where, running to catch transport, with nothing but a fanny pack around your waist, cold and alone. Overthinking, on another note, will give you nothing but overloaded baggage and sweaty palms.

There isn't a rulebook set for travelling, as our needs vary depending on where we are headed. When planning, don't expect it to be flaw-free. There will be problems, and the thing you can do is plan one step ahead. Surviving a journey also depends on taking advantage of opportunities. Unless you want to go in blind, it would be smart to Google the culture, language, food, money, health concerns, vaccination requirements, and transportation of the country you are travelling to. Everything you need to know about where you are travelling should be available on the Internet. You can read up on blogs of people who recently travelled to your desired destination and mirror their itinerary, but you can always go your own way. If you're a first time traveller, asking help from travel-junkie friends is also a good idea. If there's anyone who can give you first-hand and reliable account for everything there is to know about travel, it'll have to be them.

Like how you review for an exam, run through your travel itinerary and leave a copy of it with somebody at home. If you're going to pass borders, check whether you'll need visas for them. Check the validity of your passport, make sure you have an allowance of at least six months before it expires. It is also best to budget your travel completely to get a good grasp of the amount you have to prepare when poised to travel again.

Think of it as delayed gratification. As soon as you get over with the preparation, you would be in no time having a blast elsewhere.

## INB4: Get a good rest

While the purpose of your travel is for rest and relaxation, the fear of not accomplishing everything before departure will keep you up at night. Sleep; don't be a zombie. People will tell you it's okay to not sleep before you travel, "you can sleep on the way," but you should. Having a good night's sleep prior to your trip will help you maintain a positive outlook, and the possibility of getting cranky when things get rough becomes slim.

## Packing for your travel

As you are making final preps for your travel, it's good to keep a list of the things you need on your person. It all boils down to what items you want to be on your back when you're lost and don't know a single soul. When you figure that out, it narrows the list down to the essentials. You can also refer to the list on our Travel Tech section on page 80.

*Travel light. We live in a globalized world and tourism is the major product of many countries. While it eases the mind to know you have everything you need right there in your pack, getting stung by excess luggage fees is unpleasant. If you're pressed for time and money, why lug around stuff you can purchase en route?*







### What to wear

You're not going to walk the runway so dress appropriately. The key is to know what will keep you comfortable, let's say, on a long train and plane ride or when you have to transfer from bus to other means of transportation. Don't wear anything flashy abroad, especially expensive trinkets. Foreigners are the targets of petty criminals; you really don't need to impress anyone on your trip, so you can leave those at home.

Studies show that being seated for a long period of time in something like cramped plane seats poses a high risk of causing blood clots in your veins. It is recommended to wear non-restrictive clothing such as loose tops and comfy pants to reduce the aforementioned risks. Don't go overboard though; should an emergency arise, you don't want to snag on anything.

Closed-toe shoes can protect you from cuts gravelly surfaces can bring and also insect bites. You might also consider skipping your sandals and heels. It's wise to wear comfortable and flat kicks when travelling. Just think about all the walking and the slipping on and off of footwear when passing through airport security.

While having more than enough creature comforts with you can provide security and a sense of organization, you will have to leave some room for items you'll pick up along the way. If you no longer have room in your luggage, you'd have to purchase a container or carry it with you. Remember, you have only two hands, and very limited luggage space.

As for clothes, make sure to check on the weather of your destination. Pack sets for the days you'll be travelling and be generous to bring along at least one extra set of apparel. Unless you'll be having dinner with the Queen of England and leaving for a fancy pool party with elites next, try not to bring your whole wardrobe with you.

When you're done packing, put your luggage on a weighing scale. The allocated baggage allowance should be printed on your ticket.

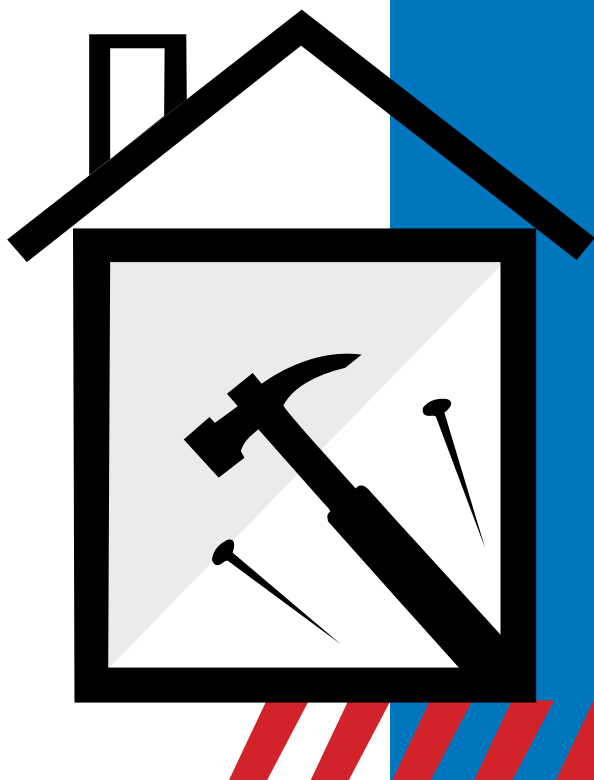
### "Surviving" Travel

What will happen during the trip, is the challenging and uncontrollable part of the journey. While your itinerary provides you an overview of how your trip will turn out, there will still be a couple of unknowns you have to overcome.

Keep yourself occupied. Knowing that there'll be long, mind-numbing rides and some hanging about in terminals during your trip, carry along gadgets, books, handheld games, and consoles to keep you entertained. Also, keep people at home up-to-date wherever you are on a regular basis. It won't hurt to let them know if there are changes to your travel plans or if you are being chased by a horde of wildebeest.

Surviving trips shouldn't be as complicated as surviving a zombie apocalypse or outwitting natural disasters. No matter where you are, happily returning home depends on your adaptability and resourcefulness more than the money and items you have with you.





# Preparing Your Home for Natural Disasters

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

In case you skipped basic geography class, the Philippines is located in the Pacific Ring of Fire and, yes, the area is as chaotic as it sounds. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions happen frequently in the Ring, and as if that wasn't enough, the Philippines is further disadvantaged by around 20 typhoons per year. Flash floods, landslides, and tsunamis also run aplenty in our neck of the woods. Though there's no way to ascertain that you and yours won't be harmed in Earth's pandemonium, you can boost your chances of making it through to the other side with the tips below.

## Do preventive maintenance

A well-kept home is not only pleasant to live in, but is also your first line of defense against Mother Nature's wrath. Besides ensuring that your abode is free of trash, stagnant water, and other unwanted debris, you should also see to it that the entire physical structure is as close to 100-percent as possible. Clean and patch up the gutters and roofing, determining whether they're properly nailed down. Paint over and re-cement any worn down portions of the walls. Repair, or if necessary, replace any windows and install safety screens.

You should also clear the area around your house. You wouldn't want a stray tree branch knocking on your door, would you? Finally, if you can afford it, have a professional gloss over your house as they can more effectively scan it from the foundation up to the rafters.

## Use DOST's Project NOAH

Even with all its inefficiencies, the government is able to do things right every once in a while. Project NOAH, one of the most noteworthy outputs of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), is a research and response program designed to lessen, if not totally prevent, disaster casualties. Known in longhand as the National Operational Assessment of Hazards, NOAH aims to provide a minimum six hours lead-time warning to vulnerable areas in the country.

Project NOAH has nine subprojects dealing with everything from flood networks, to geohazards, to landslides, and even storm surges. It uses automated and manual high tech systems sponsored by both national and international organizations. The results of its endeavors can be viewed through a nationwide hazard map over at <http://noah.dost.gov.ph/>. Using that link, you can check the amount of expected rainfall, monitor high-risk flood areas, find weather

stations nationwide, check streams and rivers, and observe the movement of wind—all useful information before, during, and after calamities.

## Stock up on food, water, and supplies

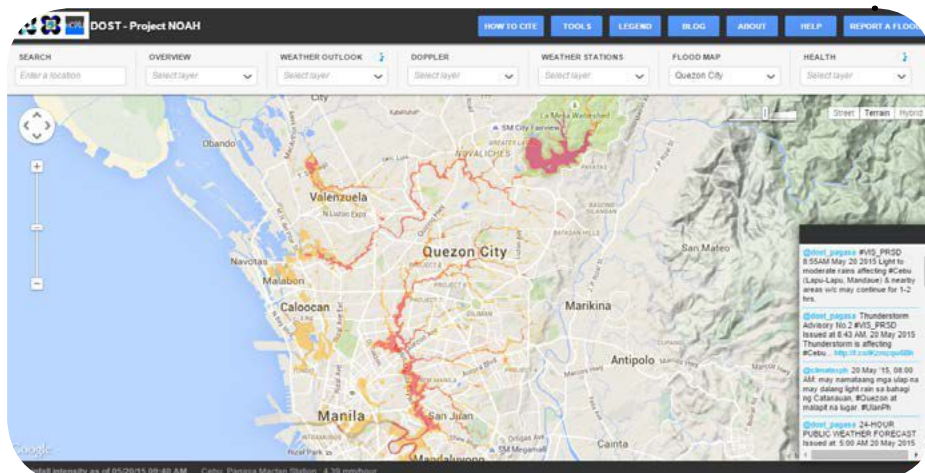
According to the Rule of 3, you can survive up to three weeks without food, three days without water, three hours in extreme temperatures, and three minutes without air. Though not scientifically accurate (the results will vary according to your fitness level and what you're doing), it does give you an idea of what to prioritize in dire situations.

As long as you're not under water, and plants are still producing oxygen, you won't have to worry about air. Assuming you're not situated in the desert, you won't likely freeze/burn to death (though do try and stay dry). That leaves you with food and water to worry about. Each person will need at least two liters of water each day, and a minimum of 1,200 calories in order to maintain regular body functions. Hoard non-perishable

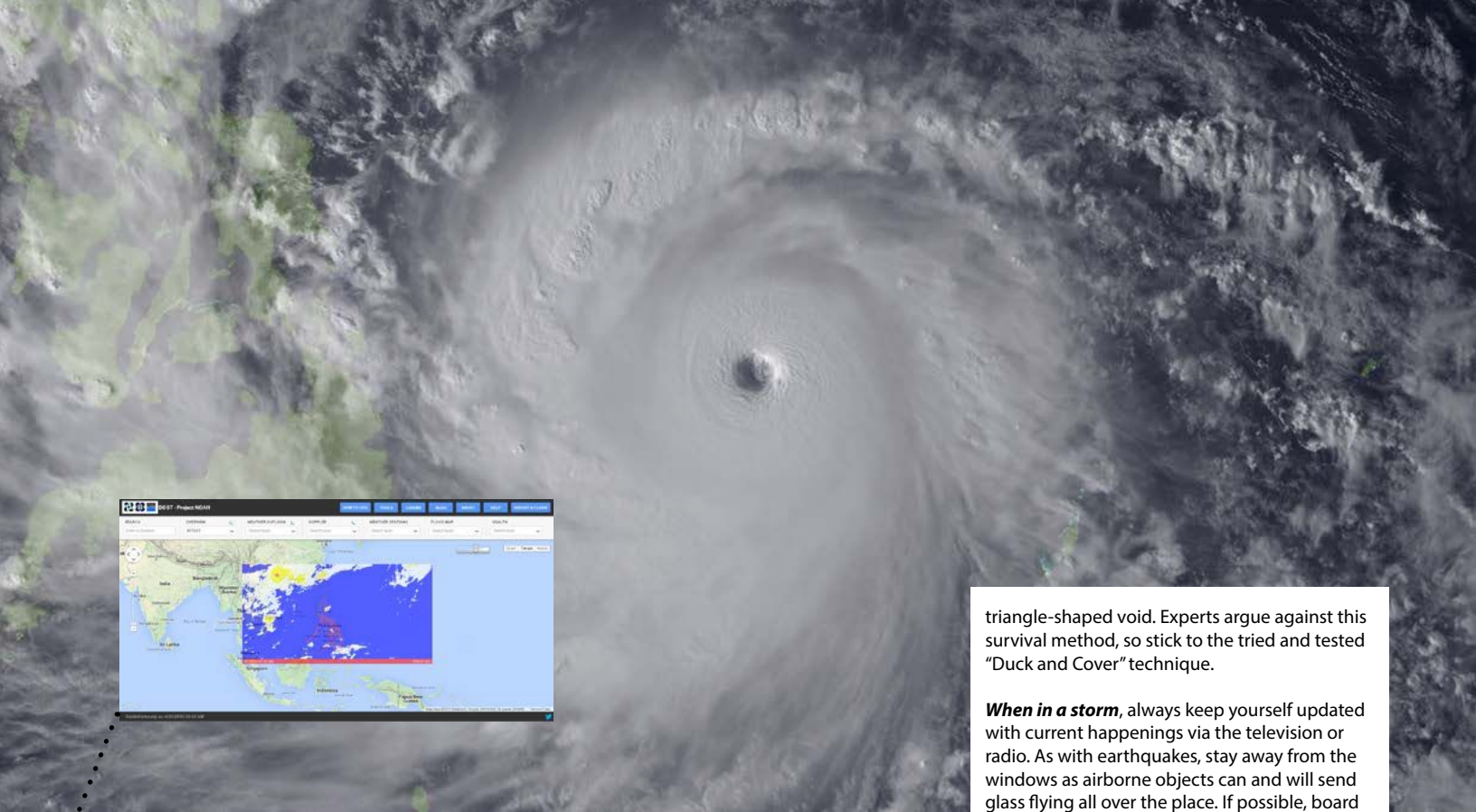
food and drinking water now and save yourself from the cognitive breakdown associated with dehydration and extreme hunger.

## On top of these, you should have:

- a portable radio
- flashlight
- batteries
- power banks for your gadgets
- all-weather basic phones
- solar chargers
- multi-tool
- clothes
- maps with known evacuation areas
- writing tools
- whistles
- matches
- emergency reference materials







triangle-shaped void. Experts argue against this survival method, so stick to the tried and tested "Duck and Cover" technique.

**When in a storm**, always keep yourself updated with current happenings via the television or radio. As with earthquakes, stay away from the windows as airborne objects can and will send glass flying all over the place. If possible, board these up and put a curtain on them. If the wind and rain become a bit tamer and the sun suddenly shines bright, resist the temptation to head outside. You're most likely under the eye of the storm and that peaceful moment won't last long. Should the authorities call for an evacuation, grab your emergency pack and follow their instructions.

**In case of floods and tsunamis**, head to higher ground as soon as possible. Remember that it only takes six inches of rushing water to sweep you off your feet, and as little as 12 inches to float your car, so if you're stuck somewhere, don't try to brave the tide.



### Pack an emergency bag

If the situation calls for it and you have to leave your home, you shouldn't be wasting valuable time trying to cram necessities into a bag at the last minute. It didn't work while you were studying and it sure won't work when you're being battered by the rain or being tossed around by the ground. With that in mind, pair your emergency stock with an equally versatile emergency bag. Keep this within easy reach, i.e. in your closet, under your bed, or near entryways, so you can grab and go in a snap.

### Know the do's and don'ts when disaster strikes

Sports teams generally survey their opponents, studying their tactics carefully, to come up with effective counter-measures. Likewise, you should read up on natural calamities so you're well-prepared when the moment comes \*knock on wood.\* You may find doing the research

daunting, so here are some of the most important things to remember in different scenarios.

**During an earthquake**, the best way to keep yourself safe is to keep away from windows, shelves, and anything that may break or fall. Stick as low to the floor as possible, protecting your head and neck with your arms. If there's a sturdy bed or table nearby, duck under that as well for added protection against falling debris. Hold your position (and the legs of the table) until the shaking stops.

Now, you may have heard of something called the "Triangle of Life." Basically, it says that your best bet at survival is not lying underneath a sturdy object, but lying beside it. The theory is that objects such as tables and beds may compress, thereby crushing anything or anyone underneath it; however, the area immediately around the object remains safe from debris courtesy of a







# Preparing for the Zombie Apocalypse

Words by Ren Alcantara

**Whether or not you believe it, it's only a matter of time before the dead rise and we get bumped off the top spot of the food chain. Playing catch-up with your preparations isn't fun when you're trying not get a firsthand tour of a zombie's digestive tract, so a little planning and preparation might be smart.**

## Fill the cupboard

When things get bad, they'll get bad quick. With no time to gather resources, you'll be left with what you have with you. Unless this apocalypse happens very shortly after you finish this article, you should have some time to prepare.

As with any disaster, you should have enough drinking water to sustain each member of your party for at least 72 hours. This is separate from the water necessary for hygiene-related tasks. Without water, you're going to degrade pretty quickly, so take this seriously. Don't rely on the tap: unless the local utility company has a plan to keep from getting overrun by zombies, it's likely all the people in the facility are less doing their job, and more eating other people.

Food for about that same period wouldn't be a bad idea either. In general, food that requires little or no preparation is a great idea. The fewer resources you need to make a meal, the better. You should also not rely on food that requires special storage requirements such as refrigeration, as that could stop being a thing in very short order. If you intend to go panic-buying just as Zach the zombie shambles into your subdivision, it's likely everyone else is thinking of doing the same. If you think zombies are dangerous, wait until you run into a terrified dad with a baseball bat.

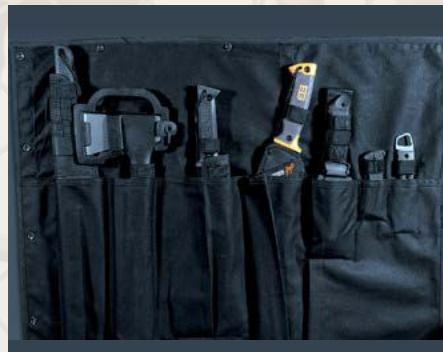
Something some people forget is that these supplies, though very hardy, are perishable. Every so often, rotate supplies out and replace them with newer ones. You don't want to be staring down starvation with an expired can of Spam in your hands. It's bad for morale.

## Other consumables

You should also keep a few things on-hand just in case. The grid isn't likely to stay on for too long, as the caretakers of powerplants and substations may have other more pressing concerns on their mind. Have batteries, spares, and a few extra on-hand. We're not really built for darkness, and flashlights (which you should have on your person all the time anyway) need to be fed. Communication equipment will also be necessary. Cellphones are a good idea while they work, so keep a dedicated one handy, but before too long, radios are going to be the better option. An AM/FM radio will also be a great idea. If the world as we know it starts to teeter, information is going to be of critical importance.

## Weapons and ammunition

Not to be alarmist or anything, but when the police and armed forces are busy attending to the injured, and trying to keep the living alive, you might have some security concerns you're going to want to see to. De-escalating the situation, running away, or generally keeping things from falling to fisticuffs should always be your priority, but when it's time to go down to Chinatown, you'd better have a big stick.



*Knives are a great thing to have. As a tool, they're indispensable, and with the right training, they're a very effective weapon. It's generally a good idea to carry one around anyway, and some of those that are great for everyday carry can also serve as a decent enough weapon in a pinch.*

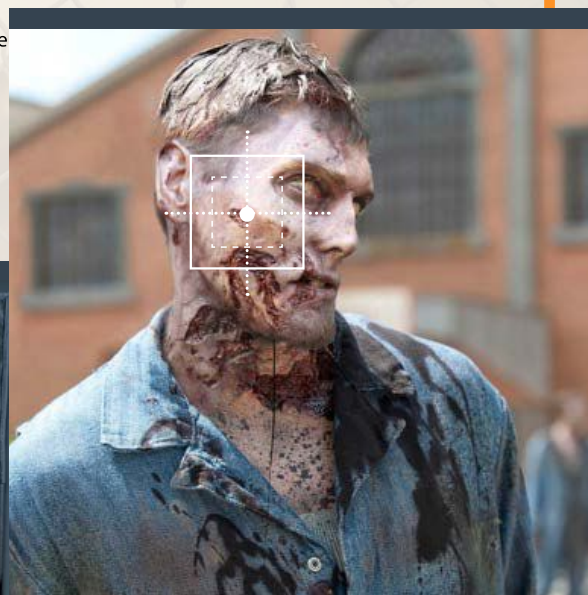






IMAGE FROM WWW.SHITZOMBIESSAY.NET

You might also want to consider a firearm. Whether against living or (un)dead assailants, hot lead travelling at about a thousand feet per second is a great ally. Just be sure to train well, in all aspects of its use and maintenance beforehand, and stay current. Shooting is a perishable skill, and bear in mind that pistols are harder to shoot than rifles. Some of you might be considering a bow. Sure, you could do that, but unless you already have the skill, or are willing to put in time to learn (time which you could use preparing in other ways) maybe find a nice rifle. This isn't the *Hunger Games*.

If you want more info on this matter, head over to the Bullet Points article on *Weapons for when SHTF* on page 76.

### **Ready, get set, go bag.**

Apart from the stuff you have stocked at home, also have a pack that you can just grab, should you have to leave in a hurry. This "Go Bag" should have a few of the basic things: food; water and a way to make more, such as a personal filter, or iodine/chlorine tabs; strong cordage; a larger cutting tool; communication tools; batteries; weapons; and ammunition. These should all fit in a bag that you can comfortably carry with you for the long haul.

Money will also be useful. It might lose its value if things stay bad or get worse, but at the very start, it's going to be a good way to get things, services, information, or help. At the absolute least, it's decent kindling.

A way to signal people for potential rescue should also be on the list. A mirror and a whistle are great starters, and are small enough to include in any kit.

Medication, from painkillers, to some reliable antibiotics, as well as any special medication that you or people important to you need should be part of the bag as well. Remember, the point of the bag is to be able to go on the move in the event you need to abandon your home base. You don't want to be on the road, short of breath, and wishing asthma inhalers grew on trees.

### **Short hair, tight clothes**

Borrowing from Max Brook's *The Zombie Survival Guide*, short hair and tight clothes are generally a great idea. There's a lot less to grab and snag, and you are allowed great movement. The less you have to worry about, the better. Who has time to condition and blow-dry when you're trying to avoid being the main course?

Okay, to be honest, we don't actually believe the Zombie Apocalypse is going to be a thing, but that's moot. All the points we've covered here are as applicable when zombies rise, as when there is a large catastrophic event that may or may not be the end of life as we know it, or some really bad disaster. Lack of supplies, the disintegration of utilities and emergency services, and the associated chaos and possible looting all require a good level of preparedness. This is just a start, so use it as a guide, and tailor it to your specific circumstances. But if the zombies do rise, run. If you can't, try and aim for the head.



# Phone-y Survival Skills

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo



When the excrement hits the fan and you find yourself alone in the middle of nowhere with nothing but a smartphone on your person, you'll probably text someone to come pick you up. But whoops! There's no cellular signal in the forsaken area you're in. Doesn't matter, you can shun reality and play a couple of levels of *Candy Crush*. Too bad you just ran out of juice. Now, your best companion in your workaday life is but a brick and you're faced with the harsh task of surviving with—paraphrasing Nick Fury in the latest *Avengers* movie—nothing but your wit and will to save yourself. What do you do?

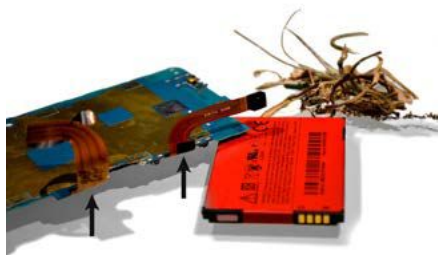




## Smash that phone up nicely

You won't be finding electrical plugs anytime soon so you're better off salvaging your phone for parts. If yours has a removable battery, take it out now and save it for later. This, along with the speaker, LCD screen, wirings, metals, and mainboard will be of most use in your quest for survival.

If you've ever dropped a phone, you'll know that a corner-focused plummet will likely shatter the unit more than a fall on the side, back, or front. That being said, go ahead and smash your phone on its corner and hope that it will crack open. It will be tough, with the screws and all, but keep in mind that the innards will have to be of useable status so you can't go overboard with the destruction.



## Create fire with the battery

If there's anything we can learn from reports of mobile devices catching fire, it's that phones—specifically the battery—can explode when in bad condition. But what's scary in civilization will likely save your life and will help you avoid a cold, chilly night.

Luckily, you won't (always) have to detonate your phone à la Michael Bay to create fire. All you need is a battery with just the slightest amount of juice, a couple of wires or any conductive sliver from your phone, and some tinder and kindling. Find the positive and negative nodes of your battery, touch the wire at both points, then quickly touch the tinder with the wire. With luck, the tinder will catch fire because of either the sheer heat of the wire, or the sparks coming from the contact points.

Get your kindling and firebase, settle down, and give yourself a pat on the back, you techy caveman you. Not only will you have a source of warmth and a place where you can roast the food you catch, smoke and fire can also attract rescuers to your position.



## One-step signal light

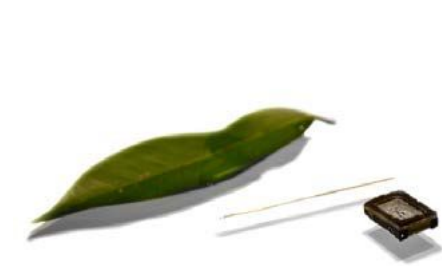
The display that once provided you the shimmering blue light of your social media feed can also double as a reflector signal. Simply hold it in one hand, position it a bit below your eyes, hold out your other hand into a peace sign, aim the reflected light between your fingers, and align the target (plane, boat, vehicle, or people) between your digits. Depending on the size of your reflector, your signal can be seen for up to 10km, maybe even more.



## Fashion cutting and hunting tools

A phone's motherboard is tough as nails and you can use any nearby rocks to fashion it into a pointy spear-end. Wrap this around a sturdy stick with a few lengths of twine and you'll have a handy tool useful for self-defense against wild animals, as well as a means for hunting food such as birds and fish. You can also unleash your inner Katniss Everdeen/Legolas/Hawkeye and create a bow out of a flexible branch and some vines, with the mobo serving as your arrowhead.

For harder tasks such as cutting wood and foliage, your phone's metal frame and mount can be folded or sharpened into a cutting-edge tool. With it, you can construct a makeshift home, slice your way through a jungle, and generally do most things you'd normally need a knife for.



## Find north

Most speakers come with a magnet and as you'll remember from elementary science class, these love the north and south. To find out which direction is where, take a wire, rub one end of it on the magnet, thread it through a leaf, and then place this on some water. The end you magnetized will be pointing north. Confirm this bearing with the position of the sun in the sky—keeping in mind that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.

Afterwards, consult your mental map and try to recall which way civilization exists. Approximate its direction relative to north so if you get lost, you can just magnetize your wire again to regain your trajectory.

Keep in mind that it's always safer when you've actual tools with you like a multi-purpose knife, flashlight, paracord, and a firestarter wherever you go. Still, you can't prep for everything and knowing the above MacGyver-ish skills will surely help you go from marooned to survivor. Your phone can always be replaced. Your life doesn't have the same luxury.

# Automotive Survival 101

Words by Ren Alcantara

**This article is aimed at properly equipping you to survive should any number of bad stuff happen as you are in your vehicle. We're not going to tell you to check your fluid levels, tire pressure, spares, and all of that, because that's all basic stuff you should do anyway. This is the stuff you do when things go bad, fast.**



## Keep your machine fed

First and foremost, a good plan will require decent, consistent range from your vehicle. While you can still get a lot of useful material out of a dry automobile, the whole point of having one is mobility. How much fuel do you have in your car right at this moment? Keep, at the very least, half a tank of gas in your car at all times. Hitchhiking is never any fun and, it's a lot less so during an emergency. Knowing your car's range, and actually having that range at hand are two completely different things.

## Urban rivers

Should you be on the road when a heavy downpour starts, stay calm, slow down (hydroplaning is not fun), and if you need to, switch your headlights on. If it gets extremely bad, pull over to where you aren't blocking traffic, preferably somewhere higher than the surrounding area, and wait it out. When you do get moving, avoid moving water. It's capable of carrying a lot of force and, apart from the risk of stalling, a few feet of rushing floodwater is enough to carry you away. Stay with your vehicle for as long as it is safe. And please, don't drive with your hazard lights on. Just don't.

## You feel the Earth move under your feet

If you're in your car and the big one hits, pull over, away from overpasses, telephone poles, container trucks, or anything that might fall on you, do your best not to block the road, and hang on. If you can, monitor the news on the car radio. As with any disaster, information is your friend. Get as much of it as you can. If, during the course of the quake, power lines come down and snake around your vehicle, stay calm. Wheels should make for decent insulation, and you should be fine. Just the same, don't go holding your vehicle unnecessarily. Wires may be in contact with the body of your car, and we'd rather you don't get crispy on the outside. Wait for the shaking to pass, and try to stay alert for any danger from outside.

## Get ready to bug out

At home, you've hopefully got supplies, safety, and allies to help see you through whatever it is that has gone wrong. If you're on the road when that happens though, things are going to be a little different. While it's generally a good idea to stay with your car if you're lost, or it breaks down in the middle of nowhere, if you're trying to get to a certain place when disaster strikes, you're going to need a little help. A decent bug-out bag (or more appropriately "get-home bag") should be just the thing. Packed with supplies to help you get home or some other place of safety, this bag can easily be stowed in the trunk of your car, ready to go should the need arise. Just be sure you don't keep a lot of things that degrade with prolonged exposure to high temperatures, and you should be all set. Head over to the Bullet Points section on page 76 to get an idea of what you can prepare.

## Food, glorious food

If you've ever gone a day without food, you know just how difficult it can be to function, or even think straight. You could keep a bit of food in the car to keep you going should you get stuck. You could go for the usual crackers, cookies, and granola bars, though what could happen is you end up eating said snacks while stuck in traffic.

It might not be the most appetizing option (and that's kind of the point), but keeping dog biscuits in the car with you is a great way to have emergency food without being tempted to snack during non-critical situations. If you eat the food inside with you, you'll still have food in the pack in the trunk.

## The worst case

If it really comes down to it, and you are stuck somewhere remote, or society has crumbled around you, think of your car as a resource made up of many discrete, usable parts: there's a lot of steel, leather, tubing, and electrical hardware inside a car. You also have a bit of fuel, and a battery. You can get a lot done with all of that—channel McGyver, and use what you can.



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*Photo may vary from actual vehicle.*

*ASC Reference Code S037P051315C*



# Toyota Wigo 1.0 TRD A/T

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David | Photos by Nicolo David

When the Toyota Wigo was launched in Cebu last year, it was pretty hard to ignore the fact that you could buy a brand new car—a Toyota at that—with less than half a million bucks. More than a year since its introduction and after thousands of units sold, we took the limited edition TRD Wigo for a spin, and here is what we thought.

GADGETS  
MAGAZINE  
EDITOR'S PICK



#### What's Hot:

- Attractive price point
- Easy to maneuver

#### What's Not:

- Can't really go too fast
- TRD package is a bit pricey







## DESIGN ★★★★★

Built in the Astra Daihatsu factory in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Wigo is sold in the Indonesian market as the Toyota Agya and the Daihatsu Ayla. With its versatile hatch form factor and sporty styling, it's not a bad-looking car, even though it is so tiny. The Wigo shares obvious design cues with the Toyota Avanza and Yaris. Outside, the Wigo sports chrome accented foglamps, color keyed power mirrors, 14-inch alloy wheels, chrome side door moldings, a spoiler integrated LED stop lamp (for the G variant), and a rear wiper. Inside, it is equipped with an easy-to-read instrument panel, and comes with GPS-ready multi-information touch panel display, silver accented center console, and power windows, locks and mirrors, and exceptional rear-passenger legroom. The Wigo is the longest and largest among its class, and has the largest opening height and width for easy ingress and egress. The limited edition Wigo with TRD body kit comes with branded front, side, and rear skirts, as well as a TRD spoiler and additional decals.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

The Wigo is powered by the Toyota 1KR-FE, which is an inline 3-cylinder 12V DOHC engine that provides a balance of power and efficiency and makes it easy to drive. While this doesn't seem like much, it's actually par for the course for its segment. The tiny engine is rated to produce a maximum output of 66Ps @ 6000rpm and a maximum torque of 85Nm @ 3600rpm, and is paired either with a 4-speed automatic, or 5-speed manual gearbox. The unit we tested had

14-inch x 5j alloy wheels, and were fitted with ventilated disc fronts and drum brakes in the rear. Suspension is courtesy of MacPherson strut with coil spring fronts and semi-independent torsion axle beam, coil springs at the rear.

Safety features include standard SRS airbags for both the driver and passenger and the top of the line grade is equipped with Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS).

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

Driving around the city is a breeze with the Wigo. Because of its size, it is easy to negotiate around busy streets and to find parking that will fit its miniscule exterior. It isn't the most powerful hatch in the market, but it is enough to get you to where you are going, at a decent speed and fuel consumption. It's a capable vehicle loaded with amenities that provide excellent value for money. However, since the main selling point of the Wigo is its ticket price, I think I would forego the TRD package, keeping things simple and more affordable.

## VALUE / PRICE ★★★★★

The Toyota Wigo is attractively priced at PHP 448,000 for the 1.0E 5-speed MT; PHP 499,000 for the 1.0G 5-speed MT; PHP 534,000 for the 1.0G 4-speed AT; and PHP 608,000 for the decked-out 1.0 TRD AT variant. The Toyota Wigo is available in six colors: blue metallic; white; black; silver metallic; metallic gray; light blue; and the newly released red.

## BOTTOMLINE :

Great choice for budget conscious buyers or first-time car owners.



# Chevrolet Malibu LTZ AT

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David | Photos by Nicolo David

**When the good folks over at Chevy told me they were sending me THE Malibu for a week, I thought they said they were sending me TO Malibu for a week. WOW! But when the car was delivered to the house, I realized my mistake, and settled with driving around in Chevy's midsize luxury sedan. Still not a bad deal, me thinks.**

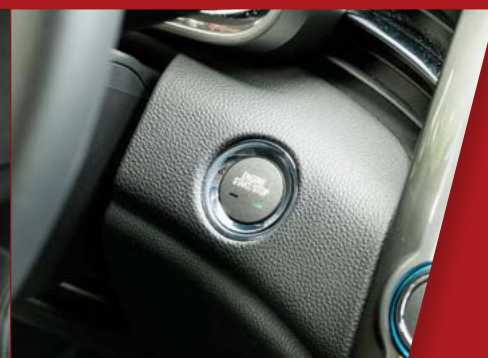
Designing an executive car can be a tricky thing. An ideal sedan for the busy decision maker should have a perfect balance of power, sustainability, comfort, and space; it has to have the best safety features and amenities; plus it needs to have hands-free controls and a decent entertainment system. Oh and it wouldn't hurt if it looks good too. It's not an easy task since strategic pricing also has to be factored in.

#### What's Hot:

- Good price point
- Loaded with amenities

#### What's Not:

- Can be a bit sluggish







## DESIGN ★★★★★

The Chevrolet Malibu is a whole lot of car. Measuring 1465mm in height, 4865mm in length, a width of 1855mm, and a wheelbase of 2737mm, its size alone gives it its commanding presence. Partner that with the trademark Chevy grille and emblem, HID headlights, fog lamps, dual exhaust tail pipes, and Camaro-inspired tail lights, and you have a subdued, masculine car that you wouldn't mind being seen in.

Inside, the Malibu is loaded with amenities even the pickiest executive will enjoy. Its premium leather seats and high quality materials is nice to the touch, and its dark interior, highlighted by touches of chrome and ambient blue lighting exudes a premium look. With the eight-way adjustable power seats for the driver and front passenger, the start/stop button, cruise control, and Chevy's MyLink System which controls telephony, navigation and entertainment, the executive is pretty much set—regardless if he is driving or being driven. NVH (Noise, Vibration, and Harshness) is handled pretty well, as the cabin is quiet enabling passengers to enjoy the entertainment system.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

The Chevrolet Malibu is powered by a 2.4-liter ECOTEC DOHC 16 valve dual VVT engine that delivers 167Ps @ 5800rpm, and maximum torque of 225Nm @ 4600rpm. This Euro 3 compliant, lightweight aluminum engine is paired with a six-speed automatic gearbox with a manual override. Soft ride suspension is standard (for both variants), with MacPherson strut fronts and Multi Link suspension in the rear. The Malibu is fitted with front and rear disc brakes, and the LTZ variant ships with 18-inch wheels. To add to its upscale amenities, Chevy did away with the conventional hand break for this car, and installed electronic parking brakes.

A large car needs a large gas tank, right? And a large gas tank is what the Malibu has. Its 73-liter tank is even bigger than some SUVs in the market today.

Smart technology was not lost on the Malibu, as it features a keyless access system that also has a remote engine start function.

Safety features include front, side, and passenger curtain airbags, 4-way Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), brake assist, Electronic Brake Distribution (EBD), traction control, and electronic stability control. Other amenities include automatic on/off headlamps, auto-dimming rearview mirror, rear park assist, rear window defogger, and the Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS).

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

Being used to driving a subcompact, the size of the Malibu takes getting used to. The feeling is comparable to driving an SUV, except that you are situated much closer to the ground. The cabin is

roomy, and the recessed design of the dashboard makes the shotgun position even more spacious. Being fitted with a tilt and telescopic steering column, plus the fully adjustable seats makes finding the perfect driving position a breeze. The handling of the Malibu is responsive, and while it isn't the fastest in its segment, it still has a decent amount of juice on tap.

## VALUE / PRICE ★★★★★

The Chevrolet Malibu is one of the more affordable executive sedans in the market today considering prices of the top tier offerings of the competition. Priced at PHP 1,398,888 for the 2.4-liter 4-Cylinder DOHC LT grade, and PHP 1,528,888 for the top-of-the-line LTZ variant, the Malibu also comes with Chevy's extended warranty of five years or 100,000 kilometers, whichever comes first.



## BOTTOMLINE :

**With more and more people replacing their sedans with huge SUVs because of their amenities and cabin size, it's time for the segment to up the ante, and the Malibu has done just that.**



# Exploring the Exceptional with the BMW 2 Series Active Tourer

Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David | Additional Photos by BMW Press

Asian Carmakers Corporation, the official importer and distributor of the BMW luxury brand in the Philippines, flew 22 media practitioners to Negros island to #ExploreTheExceptional with the first-ever BMW 2 Series #ActiveTourer.



Launched in the country earlier this year, the BMW 2 Series Active Tourer is the brand's entry to the popular Multi-Purpose Vehicle (MPV) segment, and also marks the advent of BMW's front-wheel drive offerings—something that was unheard of up until late. While the Active Tourer's form factor embodies the form and function of an MPV, it retains the brand's driving dynamics, and features distinct BMW design cues like its iconic double kidney grille flanked by twin LED headlights, and BMW's signature Hofmeister kink found on the rear side windows.

Our journey started with a short flight to the City of Smiles where six brand new units were waiting for use just outside the arrival gates. In true BMW fashion, we were chauffeured to our first pit stop, the Autobahn BMW dealership, located in nearby Talisay City. ACC president Maricar Parco and siblings Alex and Kalene Roleda from the dealership welcomed our delegation, and together, we began our Negros experience (which involved a little bit of driving and a whole lot of eating).

Three people were assigned per vehicle, and I was lucky to have TimeAttackManila's Chris Kho, and veteran lens man Ardie Lopez as my car mates. The men basically took over the driving duties for the day, so I was free to appreciate the Active Tourer as both a front and rear passenger.

While still basically a 5-door, 5-seater hatch, the Active Tourer's raised roofline and lack of a rear differential gives it a roomier, more spacious cabin. Both the driver and front passenger's seats have been raised to create more space at the

rear, and the 40:20:40-folding rear seats allow for bigger and odd shaped luggage to be loaded inside the cabin. If I remember correctly, the boot was able to fit 4 medium-sized bags, plus other purchases we got along the way. Legroom was sufficient, and the seats were comfortable. The cabin is fitted with drink holders and pockets that are perfect for the knick-knacks we bring along with us when travelling.

The ruins of what used to be Don Mariano Locsin's grand mansion was next on our agenda. Being one of the must-see spots in Negros, ACC made sure we experienced the tour by resident guide (and YouTube sensation) Roger Lucero, which was full of interesting facts, injected with witty quips that has made him famous with visitors from all over.

After a sumptuous lunch, we began our drive traversing the Negros South Road all the way to Kabankalan City, our designated rest stop and driver change. After a light snack and a quick stretch, we continued southward to our final destination for the day, the Punta Bulata Resort and Spa, in Cauayan, Negros Occidental.

The BMW 2 Series Active Tourer's instrument panel and center console is pretty straight forward, with everything within reach, and nothing too complicated. The 6.5-inch LCD screen head unit is easy to navigate with BMW's iDrive System once you get your eye and hand coordination down pat and stop touching the screen. We were happy to note that there were 12-volt power sockets both for front and rear passengers, as well as a USB port inside the center console to charge the many devices we brought along.

Under the hood of the Active Tourer is a lightweight, 3-cylinder, 1.5-liter TwinPower turbo gasoline engine that produces 138Ps @ 4400rpm, and 220Nm of torque at 1250 to 4300rpm. It is mated with a 6-speed automatic with Steptronic

transmission. While it is far from the most powerful engine in the brand's portfolio, the engine is surprisingly zippy, and driving it still gives you an adrenaline rush. Travelling at a brisk pace, the Active Tourer made little work of overtaking on the highways as well as maneuvering the busy city.

After a fun night of fellowship, followed by a restful sleep and a hearty breakfast, our group made its way back to the city to catch our plane back to Manila. Having taken the back seat the day before, it was finally my turn behind the wheel.

Driving dynamics of the Active Tourer can literally be changed with a flick of the Drive Experience Control (DEC) switch. Depending on the situation, the driver can opt to use any of the three settings available: Comfort for a steady and comfortable ride; Sport for a more dynamic drive with stiffer steering and suspension, as well as maximized revs; and Eco Pro, which was designed to maximize fuel consumption by reducing throttle response.

But don't be misled by its MPV classification, as it is hardly a chunky people mover. The Active Tourer is a stylish hatch, with just enough room for work and play. It combines the brand's premium styling and build, with amenities and features to suit modern families with active lifestyles. Optional accessories include a roof rack to accommodate more luggage and bike rigs to transport your favorite two-wheel velocipede.

Our trip ended with yet another superb meal, this time at Bacolod's 21 Restaurant. Known for its authentic Ilongo food and its killer *Batchoy*, it was a perfect end to our short but sweet trip to explore the exceptional that is Negros and the BMW 2 Series Active Tourer.

The BMW 2 Series Active Tourer 218i variant is currently available in all BMW dealerships the Philippines, and is priced at PHP 2.9M







# Ford Philippines welcomes its newest pony

**Ford Philippines celebrated the arrival of their much-awaited thoroughbred with a rock concert befitting its iconic status. The sixth generation Mustang was launched globally last year in time for the nameplate's 50th anniversary of continuous production, which began in March 1964 and first launched on April 17 of the same year.**

The all-new Mustang has finally landed on our shores, and it comes loaded with innovative technologies, delivering world-class levels of performance and style for a more controlled, connected, and comfortable driving experience.

*"The all-new Mustang represents the very best of Ford and its arrival marks the latest chapter of the iconic muscle car's rich legacy, crafted with a more contemporary look and feel. With a history spanning more than 50 years, this iconic car is at the heart and soul of Ford and we are very excited to bring the sixth generation Mustang to the Philippines," said Kay Hart, managing director, Ford Philippines.*

Despite the clean-sheet aesthetics of the all-new Mustang, it retains the nameplate's key design elements, except with a more contemporary execution including its signature shark-bite front fascia and trapezoid grille. It features a long sculpted hood and a short rear deck paired with a sleeker profile that is unmistakably Mustang. Other key features include a lower, wider stance with a reduced roof height, wider rear fenders and track, and three-dimensional, tri-bar tail lamps. Its tires have been fitted with 19-inch aluminum wheels for a more aggressive stance.

The interior of the all-new Mustang is noticeably roomier and with improved ergonomics. Retro meets tech is what best describes the instrument and control panel of the Mustang, with its round dials, knobs, and vents juxtaposed with digital displays and touchscreens. The added width and new rear suspension contribute to improved shoulder and hip room for passengers, and more trunk space that can accommodate two golf bags.

*"When you see a Mustang drive by on the road, you see a legend in motion. From its exterior and interior features, the all-new Mustang is inspired by a unique and iconic design that has been reinvented for the contemporary world," said Minnie Valencia-Bustamante, vice president for marketing and sales, Ford Philippines.*

The all-new Mustang is said to handle better than previous models, featuring all-new front and rear suspension systems as well as the most capable brake lineup ever offered in its history.

In front, a new perimeter sub frame helps to stiffen the structure while reducing mass, providing a better foundation for more predictable wheel control that benefits handling, steering, and ride. The new double-ball-joint front MacPherson strut system also enables the use of larger, more powerful brakes. At the rear is an all-new integral-link independent rear suspension that is tuned for high performance. New aluminum rear knuckles help reduce unsprung mass for improved ride and handling.

The all-new Mustang is available with two engine options: the 2.3-liter EcoBoost engine that uses direct injection, variable cam timing, and turbo charging, and delivers 314Ps of power and 434Nm of torque; and the 5.0-liter V8 engine that features an upgraded valve train and cylinder heads that yield more than 441Ps of power and 542Nm of torque. Its new intake manifold improves low-speed breathing for better fuel economy, idle stability and emissions, making it the most powerful V8 engine in GT history.

The all-new Mustang is equipped with advanced technologies to assist drivers in creating a safe

driving environment. Driver-assist features include the Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) with cross-traffic alert, adaptive cruise control, as well as the SYNC AppLink that lets drivers control their smartphone apps to listen to their favorite form of entertainment. In case of an accident, these enhancements can also supply vital information such as the maximum change in velocity during impact, indication of crash type (front, side, rear, or rollover), seatbelt usage as detected by the vehicle, awareness of whether multiple impacts occurred and whether airbags were deployed.

An all-new inflatable airbag restraint design provides the front seat passenger with knee airbag protection while significantly reducing system size and weight, enabling a roomier interior for more comfort. This new airbag is part of a standard comprehensive safety system that includes a more robust package of sensors, safety belt anchor pretensioners, improved exterior lighting, and doubles the total number of airbags on the all-new Mustang.

The all-new Mustang is smarter than your average pony, with Intelligent Access with push-button start, SYNC with MyFord Touch, and MyKey in every Mustang built. Toggle switches on the console allow drivers to quickly adjust steering effort, engine response, and transmission and electronic stability control settings at the tip of their fingers. The advanced new Ford-developed stability control system is tuned to maximize the all-new Mustang's dynamic capabilities. A selection of Drive Modes also allows drivers to create the perfect Mustang for whatever road it faces.

The all-new Mustang is available in race red, oxford white, magnetic metallic, and black, with additional colors available for the V8 model, namely, triple yellow tri-coat and competition orange. The all-new Ford Mustang is now available at Ford dealerships, and is priced at PHP 2,499,000 for the 2.3-liter EcoBoost model, and PHP 2,999,000 for the 5.0-liter V8 model.



# Yamaha brings Tricity to Cebu

Yamaha Motor Philippines' (YMPH) innovative three-wheeled Tricity recently invaded the Queen City of the South, bringing the experience of leaning to a new trend to the people of Cebu. Taking place at SM City Cebu's North Open Parking, Yamaha introduced the stylish and practical motorcycle that makes the daily commute a fun journey.

Luck smiled upon the event launch as a sunny day washed away the threat of an incoming storm. Like all Tricity events before it, a portion of the North Open Parking was converted into a test ride area so interested riders can go hands-on with the steed.

The second day proved to be busier as Yamaha executives personally introduced the new city commuter to the region. Bannering the team were YMPH sales and marketing director, Kaoru Ogura; after sales section manager, Tomoyoshi Inoue; Visayas region sales manager, Carlo Monterola; and marketing section manager, Ryan Jude Camus.

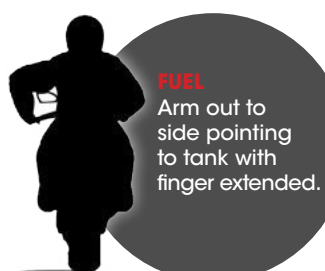
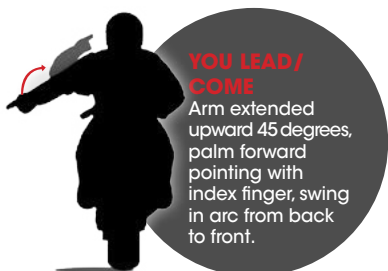
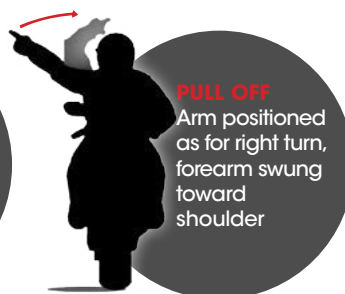
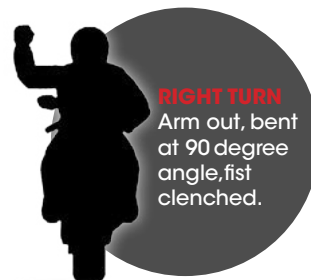
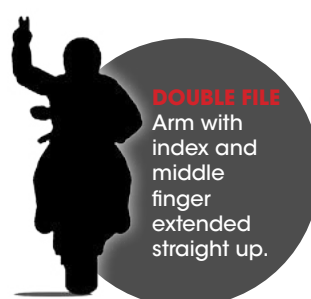
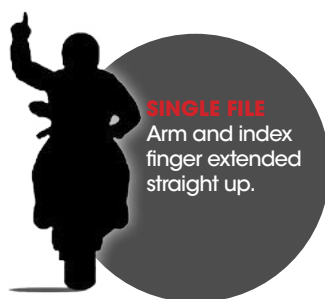
Plenty of celebrities were also present during the event, including Paulo Varela, Phoebe Kaye Fernandez, Gretchen Fullido, Gerald Anderson, Daniel Matsunaga, and Erich Gonzales.





# HAND SIGNALS

## FOR GROUP RIDING



# Toyota Philippines surpasses 1 million sales mark



**Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) ended April with 9,467 units sold, bringing their overall sales since inception to over 1-million vehicles. Specifically, TMP has sold a total of 1,000,468 units since it started its operations in 1989, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) reported.**

The Toyota Tamaraw FX, Revo, and Innova combined for a cumulative 268,065 sales; the Corolla with 213,325; and the Vios with 157,347 in less than three decades. Of the

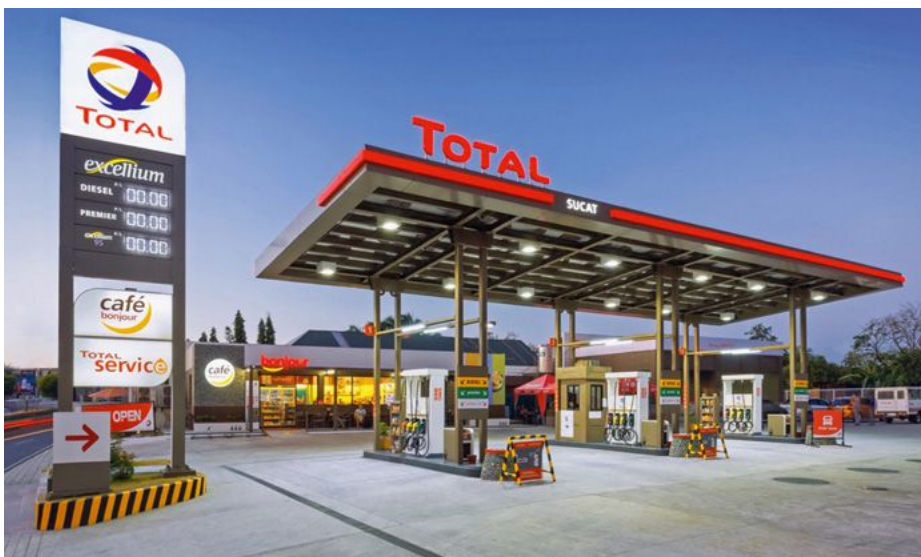
1-million figure, 615,899 came from their local manufacturing plant previously located in Bicutan and now in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

In a statement, TMP president Michinobu Sugata expressed, "Achieving this 1 million sales milestone is a great accomplishment for our company and the local automotive industry. We initially forecasted that this breakthrough will only be realized by the second semester of the year, but because of our continued strong sales, we achieved this feat three months ahead of time. Toyota

Philippines' 1 million sales milestone has been made possible in just 27 years, through the loyalty and trust of our customers and the strong partnerships and linkages we have forged with all our stakeholders. Truly, we owe this achievement to them. We, at Toyota, put to heart that achieving more than 1 million sales only means that we have already generated more than a million customer smiles. While this delights us, it further fuels us to serve our customers more fervently by consistently providing better products and services through our 47 dealers nationwide."

"As the company reaps the fruits of its successes, TMP seriously takes on its commitment in driving the Philippines toward social and economic development. Aside from economic contributions through investments, taxes and duties paid, as well as stable employment generated, Toyota remains committed to invest in people and technology, as well as actively implement corporate social responsibility activities in the areas of health, education, environment, and community service. On top of making our customers smile, we also want to put a smile on the faces of many Filipinos by giving back to society," Sugata further remarked.

## Total Philippines announces new Excellium Diesel formula



**Total Philippines has introduced the newest member of their Excellium product line: the Total Excellium Diesel. This new European-developed formula cleans and protects the engine to greatly improve fuel economy and reduce carbon emissions.**

The Excellium Diesel utilizes special detergent molecules and friction-reducing ingredients to remove engine impurities. It also protects the metal components, reducing abrasion to regain and maintain smooth power plant performance. Besides cleaning the engine and eliminating deposits, Total Excellium Diesel also contains combustion improving ingredients that reduce harmful emissions.

The Total Excellium Diesel is available in the following stations: Alabang, Balintawak, Camp 7-Bagui City, Clark-Pampanga, EDSA-Pasay, Fairview, Greenhills, Las Piñas, Makati, Merville, NCR, Northern Luzon, Plaridel-Cebu, San Fernando, Shaw Boulevard, Solana-Cagayan, Sucat 2, Tarlac, Tuguegarao, Valenzuela, Visayas, West Service Road, Zabarte-Quezon City.

Total Excellium is also available as a 95+ RON premium gasoline fuel in select Total service stations.





# INTRODUCING THE **TRD** VIOS



*The best-selling car in the country just got better.*

The new Vios TRD variant adds a sporty twist to the Vios formula with a full complement of TRD parts: 17" alloy wheels, skirts, wing spoiler, shift knob, and TRD badge. It also comes with the new Touchscreen Display with Mirror Link and Voice Control, for one exciting, well-tuned package with tons of Waku-Doki attitude.

Reserve your TRD Vios today and start the fun!



TRD AEROKIT



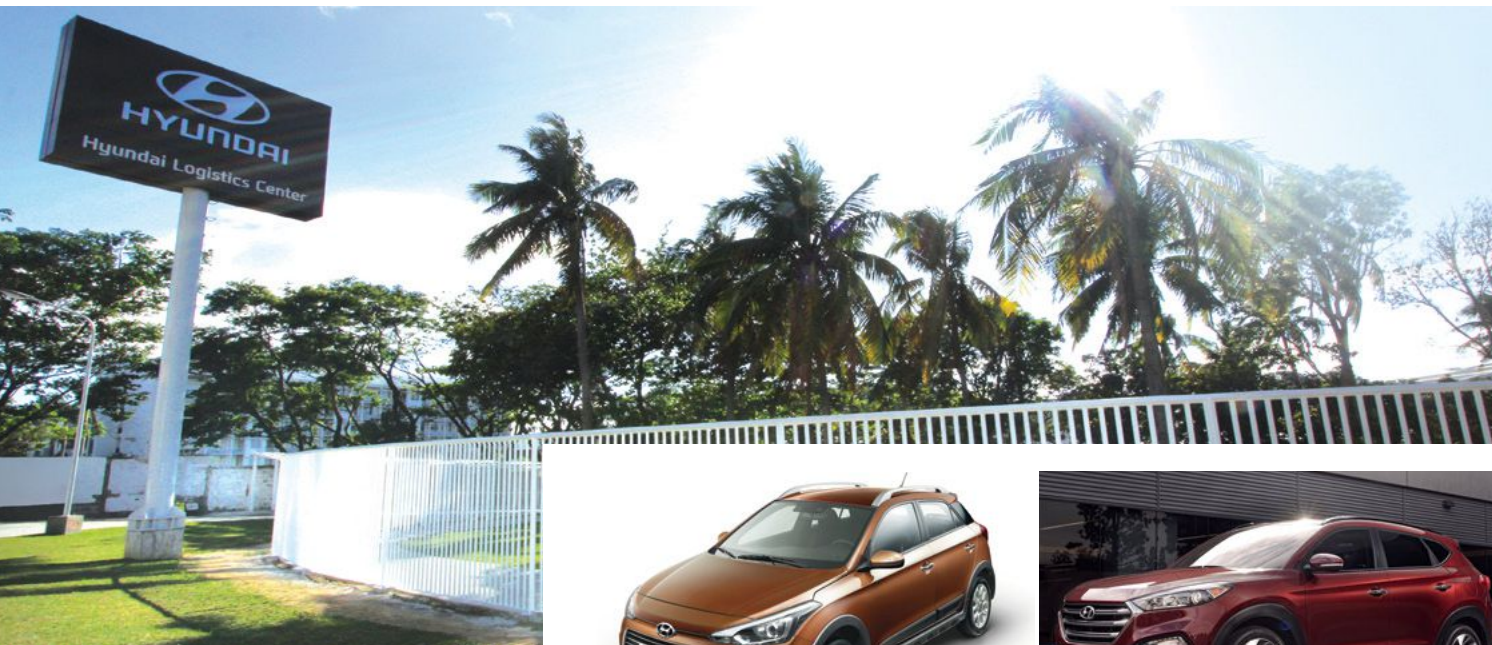
TOUCHSCREEN DISPLAY WITH  
MIRROR LINK & VOICE CONTROL



TRD 17" ALLOY WHEELS



# Hyundai intros i20 Cross Sport and updated Tucson at new Calamba facility



Hyundai Asia Resources Incorporated (HARI) formally unveiled the brand new, state-of-the-art Hyundai Logistics Center (HLC) in Barangay Makiling, Calamba, Laguna. The 10-hectare, environment-friendly facility also served as the platform for the launch of HARI's two newest nameplates, the i20 Cross Sport and Tucson.

## The Hyundai Logistics Center

Sitting on top of 10-hectares of land at the foot of Mount Makiling, the HLC is one of HARI's pioneering efforts to become a leading eco-friendly automotive company. Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, HARI president and CEO, commented, "We realized that we lacked this one thing: a concrete and unmistakable statement of our commitment as a business and a responsible corporate citizen to responsible innovation. And that is the Hyundai Logistics Center."

It meets the standards of the Philippine Green Building Initiative (PGBI), a group of professional associations sharing the same concern for nature. In fact, it was given the PGBI Kamagong certification for green buildings—the highest rating given by the PGBI.

HLC utilizes both natural and LED lights to illuminate its facilities. Solar panels are also installed in some areas to supplement its power needs. Also on site is a water treatment facility for recycling and cleaning the water used in car preparation areas. No trees were cut, buildings are well-ventilated and are made from high-quality materials, and the whole area is filled with greenery up to the roof gardens.

"HLC is Hyundai's flagship contribution to the national agenda for sustainability. It should set the standard for green buildings for the country's automakers and distributors," concluded Agudo.



## Hyundai i20 Cross Sport

The new i20 Cross Sport will arrive in two engine types: a 1.4 Kappa Petrol engine with Dual MPI VIS paired with a 4-speed automatic gearbox; and a 1.4 U2 CRDi Diesel coupled with a 6-speed manual transmission. The former doles out 100Ps @ 6000rpm and 13.6kgm of torque @ 3500rpm, while the latter provides 90Ps of power @ 4000rpm and 22.5Nm of torque @ 1500 to 2750rpm.

It has dimensions of 3,995 x 1,760 x 1,525mm (L x W x H) and stands 170mm of the ground with side mouldings, claddings, and a skid plate protecting its underside. Additionally, it comes equipped with roof rails, a rear tailgate spoiler with a stop lamp, projector headlamps, cornering headlamps, a front air dam with two-tone bumper, new hexagonal grille accented by chrome, and R16 alloy wheels.

Inside the i20 Cross Sport is a multi-function, tilt-and-telescoping steering wheel with integrated telephony and entertainment controls.

Complementing the helm is a one touch signal system for changing lanes. For convenience, the vehicle comes with 60:40 folding rear seats for cargo, numerous compartments and holders, rear airconditioning vents, and automatic side mirrors.

For safety, the i20 Cross Sport ships with various safeguards such as the Anti-lock Braking System, dual airbags for the driver and front passenger, impact sensing door unlock, reverse parking sensors, steering adaptive parking guideline, headlamp escort function, rear defogger lines, anti-pinch power windows, and an aluminum smart pedal system.



## Hyundai Tucson

Hyundai's new compact SUV features a bolder and more athletic stance thanks to the company's Fluidic Sculpture 2.0 design philosophy. It measures 4,475 x 1,850 x 1,655mm (L x W x H) with a 2,670mm long wheelbase. Sharp contours, the signature hexagonal grille, slanted square-type wheel arches, a modified A-pillar, wedge-shaped LED lights and reflectors, and alloy wheel sets complete the Tucson's outside aesthetics.

Going into the cabin, passengers will be greeted with an intuitive driver console with a non-reflective display screen, premium power-adjustable seats, and ventilation slots all around. Safety is assured through a body made out of advanced high strength steel, vehicle stability management, hill-start assist control, dual front airbags, ABS with EBD, and seatbelt reminder alerts. Hyundai's convenience package also makes its way onto the all-new Tucson. Included are the auto cruise control, tire pressure monitoring system, on-board navigation system, and smart power tailgate.

The Tucson is powered either by a 2.0 GLPP 6AT 2WD gasoline, or a 2.0 GLS-PP 6AT 2WD diesel engine. While the latter is capable of 186Ps @ 4000rpm and 41kgm of pull @ 1750 to 2750rpm. These are cradled by MacPherson/Multi-Link struts at the front/rear, and disc-type brakes.



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# Nissan expands network with six new dealerships

Nissan Philippines, Inc. (NPI) has signed six new dealerships into its network of sellers in just one day as it aggressively expands its presence in the country. The rare feat will establish new Nissan hubs in Sucat, Paranaque; Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Baliuag, Bulacan; La Paz, Iloilo; Zamboanga; and Marilao, Bulacan.

"Getting not just one or two, but six new dealerships to sign up with us all in one day is proof positive that our credo of doing things differently works," says NPI president and managing director Antonio Zara. It was also reported that a new dealer partner has joined the Nissan network, a sign of renewed confidence in the automotive brand.

To further fuel share- and stakeholder enthusiasm, NPI's entire dealership network will be adhering to the global standards set by Japan's second-largest automotive company, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. (NML), showing off the brand's identity with its innovative design.

With the prospect of having 34 nationwide hubs freshly scratched off their agenda, NPI's dealer partners will have renewed focus on delivering a top-notch ownership experience for their customers.

Having a refreshed product lineup with the all-new NP300 Navara truck as the latest



(from left to right) William Tan of Nissan Marilao; Atty. Ronald Olit of Nissan Sucat and Nissan Sta. Rosa; Vincent Licup of Nissan Marilao; Felix Limcaoco III of Nissan Sucat and Nissan Sta. Rosa; Antonio Zara, president and managing director of Nissan Philippines, Inc. (NPI); Amando San Juan of Nissan Baliuag; Antonio Ang of Nissan Iloilo; and Jeff Rolida of Nissan Zamboanga.

addition, the expansion ensures that Nissan vehicles are always within reach. "We are also bringing our brand of excellent after-sales service closer to our customers," Zara added.

In 2014, NPI topped the J.D. Power Customer Service Index Study (CSI) overcoming ten

brands and over 63 vehicle models as the company garnered an overall score of 844 on a 100-point scale, all the while performing admirably in four out of five factors: service quality, service advisor, vehicle pick-up, and service initiation. Its score is an 18-point difference versus the industry average of 826 in overall customer satisfaction.







Innovation  
that excites

## THE ALL-NEW NISSAN NP300 NAVARA NOW YOU CAN PICK UP SPEED

The new NP300 Navara has the sleek curves of a sports car. Believe it or not it's almost as quick. It's equipped with 7-speed automatic sports transmission—a first in its class. Created with the same engineering used in Nissan sports cars like the 370Z, it helps reduce fuel consumption and yields improved acceleration. This is one pickup that will be tough to follow.

Tough. Smart.



**J.D. Power Asia Pacific 2014 Philippines Customer Service Index (CSI)  
Study<sup>SM</sup> Highest in Customer Satisfaction with After-Sales Service  
among Mass-Market Brands**

Disclaimer: Nissan received the highest numerical score among auto manufacturers in the proprietary J.D. Power Asia Pacific 2014 Philippines Customer Service Index Study<sup>SM</sup>. Study based on 1,733 new-vehicle owners who purchased their vehicles between February 2012 and May 2013 and took their vehicle for service to an authorized dealer or service center between August 2013 and May 2014. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit [www.jdpower.com/corporate](http://www.jdpower.com/corporate).

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# MMPC Mitsubishi Mirage Metro Challenge

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation (MMPC) puts the Mitsubishi Mirage, Mirage G4, and their class-leading features to the test with the first-ever Mitsubishi Mirage Metro Challenge.

The challenge partners up celebrity team leaders with two select college students to form six teams of three that will go head to head in the hopes of claiming the title: first Mitsubishi Mirage Metro Challenge Champions. Celebrity team leaders include Ellen Adarna, Rico Blanco, Markki Stroem, Gretchen Ho, Ramon Bautista, and Saab Magalona.

Apart from putting the spotlight on the fun, practicality, and functionality of the brand, the Mitsubishi Mirage Metro Challenge presents tests that will bring about the skill, intelligence, automotive capabilities, and use of the stand out features of the Mitsubishi Mirage and Mirage G4.

The challenge started on May 9 at the Quezon City Memorial Circle with the second half on May 16, at the Bonifacio Global City, and the final leg on May 30 at the SM Mall of Asia. Points earned from each challenge dates plus online votes were totaled to determine each team's points.

The champion team took home PHP 100,000 each with the celebrity's winnings donated to his/her charity of choice. 2nd place non-celebrity teammates received PHP 50,000 each, while the 3rd place non-celebrity teammates got PHP 30,000 each. The rest of the non-celebrity team members received a consolation prize of PHP 10,000 each.





# Isuzu Philippines names new president

Isuzu Philippines Corporation (IPC) officially introduced their new president at turn-over ceremonies held at the Solaire Resort and Casino in Pasay City last April 27, 2015.

Mr. Hajime Koso took over the reins from Nobuo Izumina who has been assigned as the director of Isuzu Body Corporation, an affiliate of Isuzu Motors Limited (IML), after his two year-stint in the Philippines. Fifty seven year old Koso has been working for IML for the past 35 years handling mostly sales and overseas operations.

"The Philippine automotive industry is slowly setting up its pace. In the past two years, the country's record for automotive sales has seen a significant growth which is probably due to the overall growth of the economy," said Koso. "My previous assignment in Indonesia made me aware of the ASEAN market. The Philippines will be a challenging task but I think it will be worthwhile."

Koso is confident to carry on the accomplishments of Izumina, which includes a record high of 14,134 units sold in 2014, maintaining the number one position of the Isuzu N-Series trucks in the light-duty category, the introduction of the much

awaited Isuzu D-Max and Isuzu mu-X, and the 100,000 production units and sales of its best-selling Isuzu Crosswind.

"In this competitive market, we need to constantly keep up or get left behind. Isuzu has always been ready for what's to come, and for us to reap the benefits of this healthy economy, we vow to continue providing new and exciting products that will surely satisfy the consumer's needs" said Koso.

A native of Okayama, Japan, Koso's most recent post was at Isuzu Motors Kyusyu Limited where he served as the company's president. He joined IML's Domestic Sales Department in 1980 after receiving a degree in Social Sciences and Applied Economics in Hosei University in Tokyo.

In 1999, he was assigned vice president for Logistics and Export of Isuzu Motors America. Four years later in 2003, Koso became IML's general manager for ASEAN Sales; then general manager for North and South Americas Division in 2008 before assuming the same position for China and the ASEAN Division in 2009. Finally, in 2010, he was assigned vice president of Isuzu Astra Motor Indonesia.



## Isuzu holds nationwide Fiesta Fair



**Isuzu Philippines Corporation (IPC) is currently holding the four-month long Fiesta Fair at their dealerships nationwide. Lasting until September 26, 2015, the Isuzu Fair features mini car shows, fun games, test drives, and after-sales services, as well as a contest for tuners and car enthusiasts. The event is free and open to the public.**

Customers who have heavily customized their Isuzu nameplates are invited to join the "Pimp my Isuzu" contest, wherein the ride with the best modified body, interior, paint, suspension, wheels, and tires have a chance at winning a trophy plus Isuzu merchandise. Meanwhile, those with Isuzu vehicles at least 10 years old and in good condition are encouraged to show off their legacy ride in the "Oldest Isuzu" contest for a shot at winning a trophy and premium Isuzu items.

Besides the two contests, families who own an Isuzu can partake in games namely: Load-up

My Crosswind, Isuzu Treasure Hunt, Groufie Contest, and Quickest Tire Change. A group of six with members at least 25 years old is required for the challenges. Cash prizes and Isuzu premium items await the participants.

The schedules for the fair are as follows: Metro Manila Area (Isuzu Quezon Ave. and EDSA on April 25); (Isuzu Pasig on May 9); (Isuzu Manila and Commonwealth on May 16); (Isuzu Makati on May 23); (Isuzu Alabang on September 26); Luzon (Isuzu Batangas on June 20); (Isuzu San Pablo on June 27); (Isuzu Cabanatuan on July 4); (Isuzu Bulacan on July 11); (Isuzu Pangasinan on July 18); (Isuzu Pampanga on July 25); (Isuzu Isabela on August 1); (Isuzu Cavite on August 8); Visayas Area (Isuzu Mandaue on August 15); (Isuzu Iloilo on August 22); (Isuzu Bacolod on August 29); Mindanao Area (Isuzu Gensan on September 5); (Isuzu Davao on September 12); and (Isuzu Cagayan de Oro on September 19).

# Volkswagen and Ayala Foundation partner up for child welfare CSR



After launching their Child Safety Initiative (CSI) campaign during the last Manila International Auto Show, Volkswagen Philippines is continuing their child welfare CSR projects, this time by donating 21 violins and 2 cellos to the students of the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (CENTEX) in Tondo, Manila.

CENTEX is a project of Ayala Foundation, Inc. in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), other corporate sponsors, and local government units that seeks to provide intelligent but economically disadvantaged children with primary education at par with the best schools in the country.

Two CENTEX schools have been built thus far, one in Tondo, Manila, and another in Bauan, Batangas.

"For our CSR projects, we have chosen to go into one of the most basic foundations of society, and that is the care of the ones that we love the most—our children," Volkswagen Philippines president and CEO John Philip Orbeta said during the ceremonial turnover of the instruments last May 12 at the company's BGC showroom.

"Music, in particular playing musical instruments, has countless benefits for children; it increases their learning ability and is an effective way of building team work and confidence," Orbeta further explained.

In attendance during the ceremony were Ayala Foundation president Ruel Maranan and senior director for programs Rowena Lopez. Ayala Foundation, the social development arm of Ayala Corporation, has four key program areas, namely Youth Leadership, Sustainable Livelihood, Arts and Culture, and Education (wherein CENTEX plays a crucial role). For this reason, VW PH has chosen this special project as their second CSR activity for the year.

## BYD's eco-friendly F3 taxis to hit Metro Manila streets

Solar Transport Automotive Resources Corp., (STAR Corp.), BYD's exclusive Philippine distributor, has announced their partnership with World Transport to roll out its first taxi fleet. STAR Corp. managing director Mark Andrew Tieng together with general manager Jose Paolo Soriano presented the first draftee, a BYD F3 taxi, to World Transport during a ceremony at the Shaw Boulevard BYD Showroom.

"These are exciting times for STAR Corp. as we roll out our first taxi fleet in the Philippines. The BYD F3 is designed for the Filipino commuting public who deserve more space and comfort. It is fuel efficient and represents real value for money," said Tieng.

The BYD F3 Taxi is a compact four-door sedan with built-in provisions for a taxi meter, top mount light, and a "For Hire" signage. It is bigger, wider, longer, and roomier than most taxi models, able to fit up to five occupants while maintaining ample leg- and elbowroom.

It is powered by a Euro 4 compliant 1.5L 473QE engine, a fuel-efficient power plant that combines VVL (Variable Valve Lift) and EGR (Exhaust Gas Recirculation) technology to maximize power while minimizing fuel consumption and emissions. The engine is paired with a five-speed manual transmission.



STAR Corp. managing director Mark Andrew Tieng (first from left) and general manager Jose Paolo Soriano (second from left) presents the BYD F3 taxi to partners from World Transport.

The F3 is also installed with various safety features such as a Bosch two channel Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) with non-stop monitoring Delphi EBD (Electronic Brake Force Distribution), full-size front and rear fog lamps, rear defogger, LED brake lights, as well as a third LED high-mounted brake light.

"In other Asian countries, the Middle East, and even Latin America, the F3 is the car of choice for taxi fleet operations, as well in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2008; in Egypt, through their Financial Department of Cairo, where the F3 replaced 80,000 city taxi units in 2009; and in the Dominican Republic, which acquired 500 F3 taxis in 2010," Tieng added.



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# Honda launches the all-new Mobilio 7-seater MUV

Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David | Additional Photos by Honda Press

***Is it a stretched out Jazz? Is it an AUV? Honda calls it a Multi-purpose Utility Vehicle.***

**Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) has just added the all-new Honda Mobilio to their stable, rounding up their entry-level offerings to a total of three value-for-money vehicles.**

The newest addition to Honda's lineup is their take on the highly popular AUV/MUV segment that is popular in our country, as well as with our Asian neighbors. At the launch, HCPI president and general manager Toshio Kuwahara said "With a clear grasp of the local culture, we believe that the all-new Mobilio fits the needs and expectations of the Filipino family in a vehicle and we are thrilled to be able to finally introduce it locally and see more smiles on the road in an all-new Mobilio."

The Mobilio is currently available in Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, India, and now the Philippines, with our country being the only left-hand-drive market so far. While this may be an expensive move for Honda, this may be testament to how much our market is valued by the brand.

The Mobilio shares the platform of its entry-level brothers, the Brio and Brio Amaze, which are currently the brand's smallest and most affordable cars. It is powered by the same engine that powers the brand's popular City and Jazz nameplates, Honda's 1.5-liter i-VTEC engine that delivers maximum power output of 120Ps @ 6600rpm and 145Nm of torque @ 4600rpm. The power plant is mated to either a 5-speed manual transmission or the new Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) developed under the Earth Dreams Technology to keep the balance between power and fuel efficiency.

Keeping with Honda's design philosophy of "Man Maximum, Machine Minimum," the cabin seats 7 adults comfortably, with ample leg and headroom for all occupants. The Mobilio shares the dashboard of the Brio, with the triple analog three dimensional (3D) meters and four-air-con-vent design, save for the colors of the gauges and the silver trims scattered on the dash. The three-spoke steering wheel also features controls for the audio. The second row seat is a 60/40 split, recline, fold, and tumble type with 90mm slide function for middle-seat passenger comfort and ensures easy access to the third row. The third row seat, on the other hand, is a 50/50 split, recline-fold-and-tumble type, which gives more flexibility to accommodate different hauling needs. The third row seat can also be quickly and conveniently tumbled forward for maximum cargo space.



The all-new Mobilio measures 4,386mm/4,398mm (RS) long, 1,683mm wide, 1,603mm tall, and 2,652mm long at the wheelbase. It features a 5.2m turning radius for easy maneuverability, and a 189mm ground clearance that provides a comfortable ride even on rough roads.

The top-of-the-line Mobilio RS is equipped with a 7-inch touch screen audio unit with built-in navigation system powered by Garmin which has easy-to-operate features such as an Emergency Hotline Button for sudden roadside needs, Bluetooth audio and hands-free telephone (HFT), CD/DVD drive, as well as USB and AUX ports. The V variant is equipped with a 2-DIN audio unit with Bluetooth/HFT/CD/USB/AUX functions.

Safety features include driver and passenger SRS airbags, Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD), Seat Belt Reminder, ISOFIX, and Immobilizer as standard safety features in all variants.

For those who want to accessorize their vehicle further, Honda is also offering two special utility packages: the Utility Package 1 includes genuine Modulo door visor, trunk tray, body cover, seat back utility box, and seat back holder; and the Utility Package 2 which includes genuine door visors, cargo storage, seat back holder, angle adjustment kit, tablet holder and step side garnish. The special Modulo packages are sold separately.

For the all-new Mobilio, Honda has also reintroduced one of its sporty grades, the RS, which stand for Road Sailing. RS is Honda's sporty grade for everyday sport as it balances day-to-day utility with sporty aesthetics. The RS grade is among other Honda sport grades, Type R and Si. The Mobilio RS is the top-of-the-line variant that

features seven exclusively-designed exterior parts such as the front grille, front bumper, 15-inch alloy wheels, side sill garnish, tailgate spoiler, rear bumper with exhaust pipe finisher, and the RS emblem.

The Mobilio has so much going for it. Priced below the PHP 1 million mark, it is a comfortable people mover with ample head and legroom. It's a great van alternative for those who don't need that much space, but won't fit in a regular sedan either. Plus, it also has the unmistakable Honda look, making it the only one in its segment that offers value for money while still maintaining a sporty edge.

The all-new Mobilio is available in three variants, and is priced as follows: 1.5 E MT for PHP 807,000; 1.5 V CVT for PHP 877,000; 1.5 RS Navi CVT for PHP 967,000; and finally the 1.5 RS Navi CVT with the special white orchid pearl color - PHP 987,000. Colors available are alabaster silver metallic (all variants), taffeta white (V CVT and E MT), crystal black pearl (RS Navi CVT and V CVT), sunset orange (exclusive to RS Navi CVT only), and white orchid pearl (exclusive to RS Navi CVT only).





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Last May 15, Nikon Philippines took over 50 members of the Nikon Club Philippines as well as a handful of journalists to Lucban, Quezon to document the colorful Pahiyas Festival. Tens of thousands of tourists—both local and foreign—flocked to the Summer and Art Capital of Quezon Province for the “fiesta to end all fiestas,” and if you weren’t part of their ranks, read on to find out what you missed.



# Nikon Photowalk at the San Isidro PAHIYAS Festival

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo | Photos by Benedict Asal



Lucban councilor Cornelia Kaneses welcoming the group to the municipality.



## THE FESTIVAL'S HISTORY

The Pahiyas Festival's origins could be traced back all the way to the 1500s where farmers in the area gathered each year, aggregating their harvests and conducting a simple celebration to thank the *anitos* for a bountiful season. When Catholicism arrived, the farmers brought hand-picked produce into a church where these were blessed and offered unto the Lord by parish priests.

Around this time they were introduced to San Isidro de Labrador, the patron saint of farmers. The subsequent years which also saw abundant reaps increased the devotion of farmers to the annual merriment.

Over time, the festival evolved to what it is today—row upon row of houses decorated with grains, vegetables, fruits, fish, and fowl. And while the tradition evolved into which household could create the most beautiful, most artistic façade, its essence of being a tribute to the heavens still remains with the town's inhabitants.

The tourist-grabbing Pahiyas Festival as it is today is a flagship endeavor by the Art Club of Lucban. The group incorporated a trade fair, cultural show, contests, parades, and art exhibits to the yearly festivities, and the rest is history.







## PAHIYAS 2015

The Pahiyas Festival always sees to it that the town is filled to the brim with people, and this year was no different. Guests had to walk around a kilometer to get to the town plaza where most of the commercial sponsors were, and from there, they had a variety of places to go to.

For the Photowalk, our first stop was the town's museum which was inaugurated only last April 9. There to welcome us was Lucban councilor Cornelio Raneses who discussed the municipality's history, as well as the government's plans for future festivities in the area. We were given a chance to immerse ourselves in the gallery which contained mostly World War materials, photos, currencies, garments, armor, rifles, and ammunition. The works of local painters as well as antiquities such as plates, vases, dressers, and bows and arrows were also on display.

We then headed towards Lucban Church which served as the meeting hub for the rest of the day. Built during the 1630s, the church has endured its fair share of natural and man-made damages, but it still stands tall ready to accommodate devotees. During our stay, the church had a steady stream of people going in and out to both hear the sermon and admire the millennia's worth of history it represents.

Lucban Church served as the kickoff point for the Pahiyas Parade, a long procession of young men and women dressed in native regal attire, marching bands, and the people and organizations who made the event possible. The participants made their way around town before ending back at the church.

Not to be forgotten are the row upon row of stores selling everything from native handicrafts to shoes, clothes, food, and even tech stuff. Fair warning: bring a decent amount of cash with you since you'll likely buy most of what you see in Lucban. Also, go as early as possible for the delectable yema cakes as they quickly run out!



The Pahiyas Festival is an all-day event and is a very tiring affair. Still, the hospitality of the locals, their pride in the tradition, and the overall atmosphere of the entire municipality are reason enough for tourists to keep coming back year after year. If city life has you bummed out and you're looking to get back in touch with Filipino culture, the annual Pahiyas is the perfect re-initiation into our rich and wonderful heritage. Just be sure to bring great cameras like we did.

*We were lucky enough to spot the beautiful Jaime Dempsey (right), host of History Channel's Ride N' Seek, strolling the decorated streets of Lucban during the Pahiyas.*



**You've got a whole day's worth of free time. At home, as you surf through channels, you come across an image of a man cautiously making his way out a marsh. Curious, you decide to stick through to the end of the show. You are overwhelmed with a sense of adventure as the credits roll; and stirred by the audacity to walk into the wilderness with meager tools, to hopefully come back in one piece.**

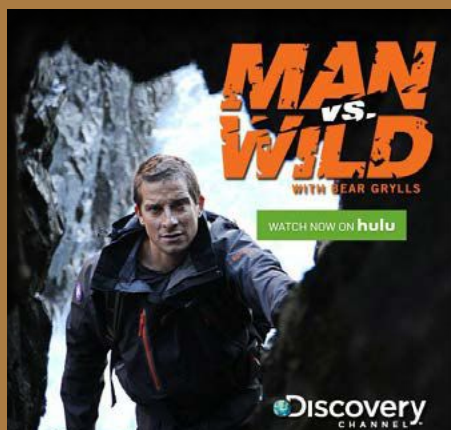
# The Indefinite List of Reality Survival Skills Shows

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

Apart from getting acquainted with all the branches of science, watching shows on networks like Discovery Channel and National Geographic can prep you for some of the most extremely unlikely situations you would rather not find yourself in. Thoughts of a pandemic, the impending zombie apocalypse, nuclear war, natural disasters, and all that end-of-the-world stuff that we hopefully won't face in our lifetime have spawned shows that tackle how to attack these situations, survive, and emerge from the rubble. This month's Visual Space features a list of survivalist and prepper shows worth checking out for when the adventure junkie in you calls.







## Man vs. Wild

We start off our list with survival expert Bear Grylls. This British adventurer is popularly known for his thick accent, boyish good looks, and iron stomach.

At the beginning of each episode, Bear Grylls is dropped in an unknown region, with mostly rough terrain as far as the eye can see. The majority of the episode documents his efforts to survive until he finds a way back to civilization. The focus is on how Bear acquires shelter, water, and food, while safely mapping his way out the jungle. He delves into the nitty-gritty aspects of survival, and while some plans are foolhardy and over the top, the knowledge he gives might spell the difference between getting out, and getting buried.



## Dual Survival

There's just something oddly amusing from watching polar opposites being in common, uncomfortable circumstances, particularly when the pair is stranded on an island with minimal gear, left to fend for themselves.

That's what exactly *Dual Survival* offers. The show's original cast had naturalist/primitive skills expert Cody Lundin and military-trained survival instructor Dave Canterbury, an odd couple that put their differences aside to survive. They demonstrate how to tackle various conditions, each according to their knowledge and experience. Though most of the time their approaches differ, both in the end overcome by filling in each others' inadequacies.



## Man, Woman, Wild

This series is in a way, a lot like *Dual Survival*, but with a slight twist. Where Cody and Dave are both trained in survival, Mykel Hawke's partner in the show is his wife, Ruth England. The situation is: Hawke is a former Army Special Forces officer, and his wife is a tough field reporter with a lot of fire, but considerably less survival training. While you would expect Mykel to do a lot of the heavy lifting, Ruth's extremely driven, and more than once manages to surprise viewers with what she is both willing and able to do for the pair. More than just the survival tips that you can pick up and study on your own, the dynamic between the two is both entertaining and inspiring.



## Survivorman

A list of wilderness survival shows wouldn't be complete without *Survivorman*. Injecting humanity in the realm of survival shows, filmmaker and survival expert Les Stroud ventures into the wilderness without a fallback staff or camera crew to serve as his safety net when worse comes to worst (spoiler: he comes equipped with an emergency phone to contact his crew if in utter distress). He takes off with less than ideal items to accompany him, filming on his own, and surviving for at least a week until he is rescued. The take away from the show is you learn survival techniques that have been passed down from the locals of each location he has been to.



## Doomsday Preppers

When the end times come, do you know someone in the neighborhood willing to share their foxhole with you? This show features the most extreme preppers, some of whom have disaster-proofed their homes and gathered supplies so when fire rains down from the heavens/the zombies rise/ everyone gets ebola, they'll survive. Though the preparations of some are a bit of a stretch and make them look fanatical, you could still pick up a thing or two from these preppers.



## Matanglawin

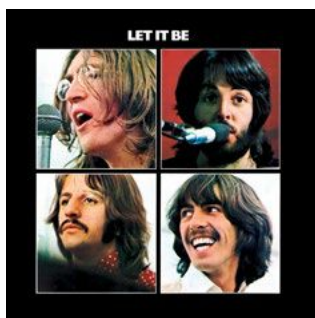
Kim Atienza or popularly called Kuya Kim takes on the role of an explorer in a show which delves into local legends, beliefs and traditions, flora and fauna, and interesting trivia on just about everything. Kuya Kim also teaches his viewers what to do in several wilderness situations. As the name of the show suggests, he takes on the vantage point of a hawk (*Matanglawin*), that showcases traits such as being inquisitive, vigilant, and adventurous, all useful traits for the survivor.



# Scoring an apocalypse

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

When you're trying to endure against the odds, the last thing you might think about doing is to sit down, put on some buds or cans, and just listen to music. Why would you take a lax moment when you know full well that every second counts in a worst case scenario? Well, science has suggested that mellowing out with some beats provides us some physical and mental benefits such as easing pain, added endurance, reduced stress, and enhanced cognitive functions, not to mention the morale boost you get from hearing another person's voice. With that in mind, here are some tracks you might want to listen to when you find yourself in times of trouble...



## Let it Be—The Beatles

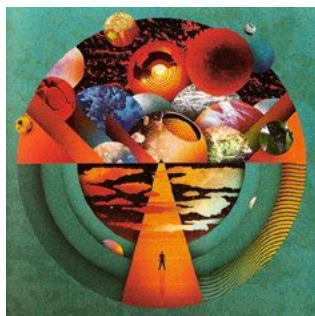
...Mother Mary comes to me. This classic Beatles track—arguably an all-time best—is one of the band's swan songs before they went their separate ways. Straight-forward lyrics and clean instrumentals that lead to a rousing climax is sure to bring anyone to a stop, and make them ponder about the situation they're in to hopefully motivate them to accept it and move on.

And when the night is cloudy, there is  
still a light that shines on me.

## Everybody Wants to Rule the World—Lorde

Originally from the band Tears for Fears, Lorde's cover features a darker, angsty tone that made it a perfect accompaniment to *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and *the Assassin's Creed Unity E3 Trailer*. Though the lyrics are quite serious and delivery's nonchalant (at first), the ending verse is epic and will make you feel like a character fighting in a movie's finale.

Welcome to your life,  
there's no turning back.



## Exogenesis: Symphony—Muse

Haunting. Beautiful. Monumental. This 13-minute long symphony from English rock band Muse is composed of three parts, namely *Overture*, *Cross-Pollination*, and *Redemption*. Each features Matt Bellamy's insane vocal range accompanied by the band's eclectic style and a full 40-person orchestra. *Exogenesis* conveys interplanetary travel to save the human race from extinction. In an apocalypse, that idea wouldn't seem half bad.

Spread our codes to the  
stars. You must rescue us all.

## Shake it Out—Florence and The Machine

An optimistic song for when you need peace, *Shake it Out* boasts a gospel-like instrumental track anchored by a churchy organ and pounding drums. The highlight is an earworm chorus proclaimed by Florence Welch's powerful voice which believe me, will have you singing along in no time at all. Critics praise it as anthemic, and it may just be the pep talk you need for a survival-induced adrenaline rush.

And it's hard to dance with a devil on  
your back, so shake him off





### Viva La Vida—Coldplay

With clear references to the Christian bible accompanied by church bells and a sweeping organ, you'd expect that this, one of the band's most popular tracks, would be preachy. It isn't, as it uses religious references to basically tell the story of the perils of highbrow living. Poetic and marching, this orchestral pop number will have you shouting "Long live life!"



Just a puppet on a lovely string, oh who would  
ever want to be king.



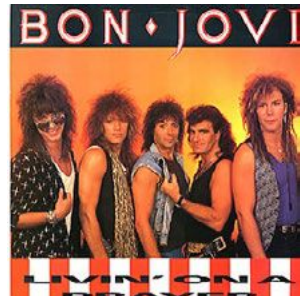
### Now—Paramore

After the controversial departure of two of their core members, many thought Paramore wouldn't be the same again. Boy, were they wrong, and this piece proves that the band's talent goes beyond their happy, poppy image. Grungy but with a heaping load of grit, *Now* is a perfect war cry for pessimists that want to look at the bright side without being annoyingly positive.

There's a time and a place to die,  
but this ain't it.

### Livin' on a Prayer—Bon Jovi

Ask anyone about songs they remember from Bon Jovi and chances are, *Livin' on a Prayer*, would pop up as one of the top five answers. Though it's been interpreted as a labor hymn, Jon Bon Jovi's commanding vocals leading the most iconic quintet of all time is sure to make any survivor wail on an air guitar, scream the chorus, and release some stress.



You live for the fight when it's  
all that you've got.



### Carry on Wayward Son—Kansas

Pump yourself up with this songs' combination of a-cappella choruses and transition guitar riffs from classic rock band Kansas. Spiritual in its roots, the lyrics will urge you to "carry on" despite current circumstances and keep the faith in whatever you believe in. Any time you're in deep trouble, just having your convictions will go a long way towards keeping you sane.

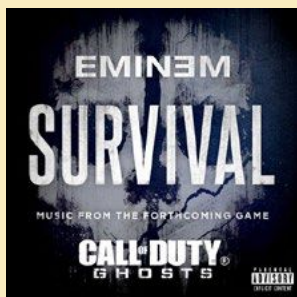
Lay your weary head to rest.  
Don't you cry no more.

### Eye of the Tiger—Survivor

Feel like you're the next boxing great with one of history's most recognizable intro riffs. As long as you start your daily routine with a song that is as fired up as this one, nothing short of death will stand in your way. Wrestle bears, punch sharks in the nose, and kick Mother Nature's fiercest challenges in the balls while you try to get *Eye of the Tiger* out of your head.



And the last known survivor  
stalks his prey in the night.



### Survival—Eminem

Ending this list is Slim Shady with an aptly named track in *Survival*. Besides the easily understandable (and repeatable) chorus, most of the song is a blur thanks to Eminem's slick tongue-twisting rhymes. "Slow" parts here and there allow you to grasp some of the words, but don't worry; the explosive beat and distorted guitar portions will likewise convey the venomous rap.

When the thought of being thrown into an  
alligator pit, I salivate at it.

# Blumr:

## A GAME-CHANGING APPLICATION THAT GIVES A LIFE-AS-IT-HAPPENS EXPERIENCE!

Ever wondered how online communication would be if it were just like talking to the person face to face? The newest media application to hit the tech world allows you to do exactly just that. **Blumr** delivers authentic thoughts and genuine feelings as they happen!



The start-up team behind this revolutionary application is LetsBlumIt Corporation. Founded by a group of young, creative, technically-informed,

and business savvy technopreneurs, *Blumr* seeks to bring technology a step closer to reality.

*Blumr* has recently launched its beta phase highlighting *Blurt*, a chat-as-you-type feature that allows people to communicate ideas as soon as they are conceived and express emotions just as they are felt. While the user is still typing a message, the other party can already view every character that is being typed. Just as how the word "Blurt" is defined, this unique feature captures real-life gestures as if the person is right next to you.

*Blumr's* various unique features also include an advanced *Voice and Video Call* technology—a **Blumr.com**-based video call that allows the person to connect with anyone without having to install or download a program; *Switch*—a feature that allows a person to seamlessly change from one device to another even while a call is ongoing; and *Trends*—a feature that provides balanced perspectives to express genuine and unbiased thoughts and feelings that can be heard as they happen. It brings people to a so-called *Reality Check*, the social experience where people see and hear the popular as well as understand the unpopular.

In an ever-changing world of technological advancements, *Blumr's* technology aims to bring us one step closer to reality, making it within reach of every one—real time, real life experience... what are you waiting for?

Let's Blum It!

Blumr beta is available in Google Play, App Store (June 2015), and via web through <https://blumr.com>





# Using your iPhone as a Survival Tool

Words by Presy Alba

In a blink of an eye, we could find ourselves in an emergency situation. In the past year we've all found ourselves in or witness to at least one of these calamities: earthquakes, super typhoons, power outages, accidents, etc. It seems like disasters are inescapable wherever we are. We make preparations for such events, but somehow there are still occasions when we are caught by surprise.

You may have a well-organized disaster preparation in place but still get caught flat footed when calamity strikes. If the only gadget you have on hand at the time of crisis is your iPhone, just remember that it could be your lifeline to the rest of the world and your personal survival tool.

Here are just seven things that it could do to help you out of your dire situation:

## Tool #1: as Flashlight

If power goes out during a crisis situation, you don't have to search in the dark for a flashlight. Your iPhone will allow you to immediately put your disaster response in motion.

## Tool #2: as Compass

If you find yourself disoriented, the compass app that is native to your iPhone will help you walk in the right direction.

## Tool #3: as Emergency Beacon

If you are lost or trapped but you have internet connection, turning on the Emergency Beacon app (downloadable for free from the App Store) will enable search and rescue teams to locate you.

## Tool #4: as Map

If you find yourself in a strange place and you do not know which way to go to reach your destination, turning on the Map app that is native to your iPhone or using a third party map that you've previously downloaded makes finding your way much easier than trying to decipher where you are on a printed map.

## Tool #7: as Loudspeaker

The free megaphone app from the App Store will help you attract the attention of rescuers in case you are trapped and in need of rescuing. You can even record your SOS callout and replay the message. Just make sure that your phone has enough juice.

## Tool #6: as Communicator and News Source

If you find yourself in an emergency situation where you have both telecom service and internet connection, but you cannot move to safety without any assistance, your iPhone will allow you to contact the people who are searching for you while also keeping track of any developments that are happening.

## Tool #5: as First Aid and Survival Guide

Downloading any first aid app as well as a survival guide app well before you think you will need them will give you some assurance that you are prepared for any emergency situation.

# The Bug-out Bag

Words by Ren Alcantara | Art by Emmanuel Luz

**A lot of stuff is going on right now. Natural disasters, rising tensions in our region, and general bad stuff. A full-on apocalyptic event is a little far-fetched, but the fact remains that life as we know it rests on a very delicate balance of factors. These factors are mostly beyond our control. Should the excrement hit the ventilation, things could get ugly, fast.**

The best option is usually to stay indoors, watch your supplies, and wait for things to calm down, or for rescue to arrive. This might not always be the case though. For one reason or another, you may have to move. Maybe it's because your area isn't safe. Maybe you absolutely have to go find someone, or maybe you are forced to evacuate. There couldn't be a worse time to get a kit together than just then. Do yourself a favor and put together a bug-out bag before stuff goes down.

Contrary to what you might be thinking, you should pick the actual bag last. There's a lot going on here, and there are a lot of things you will need to tailor to your needs, so choose a bag once you have the kit put together.



## Food and water

You're not going to be able to carry enough water for days in a small, convenient pack. Have two or three liters of clean drinking water, and a means to make more from whatever water sources you find. A personal filter, some iodine, or some bleach will work, though make sure you read up and know what you're doing. Having both a chemical and physical (filter) solution would be even better. Water is really important. You'll also want a (preferably metal) canteen that can handle heating.

As for food, your immediate instinct may be to grab canned goods. Those will do in a pinch, but they're not ideal. They're heavy, will require some preparation, and have a fair amount of salt, which will make you thirsty. You can look around online and find high-calorie survival bars that pack very small, and don't cause thirst. Military-style MREs are also not a bad idea for this purpose. Have enough for three days, just in case your trip extends a little longer than planned.



## First aid

If you have maintenance medicines, or critically rely on medication for an existing condition, those should be at the top of this list. Second, you'll need some antibiotics, painkillers, and antimotility drugs. You can fight through some pain, maybe even a fever, but the runs are going to knock you down fast when they hit. Given the state of things, and the water you may have to consume, the chances of a stomach bug hitting you are vastly increased.

Bandages, gauze, adhesive tape, moleskin (for blisters), and burn ointment are also a great idea. Cuts, scratches, and burns all do a lot to impede mobility and reduce performance. You should be able to deal with them. Latex or nitrile gloves are also handy, and are useful enough to make up for their weight. Being a tropical country, you might be okay without a mylar emergency blanket, but throw some bug repellant in there to ward off mosquitoes. Earplugs are also a great idea. Just make sure you have someone on watch should you decide to take a rest while wearing them.

A lot of these things are available in commercial first aid kits, though they often have a few things you don't need, and lack others you do. Just pare it down, and add the rest.

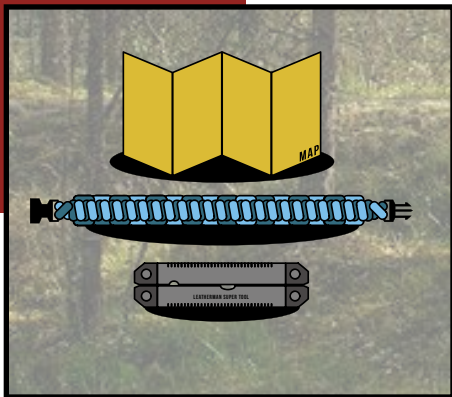


## Clothing

Have a change of clothes. Should your current set get wet or damaged beyond usability, you're going to have to change. Light, fast-drying clothes are ideal. Stay away from cotton which absorbs moisture and is chilly when damp, and above all else, make sure it's comfortable. A light wrap or scarf wouldn't be a bad idea, and don't forget a couple of pairs of socks.

Pack a poncho. We live in a tropical country, and foul weather can make a bad experience that much worse. Try to avoid the disposable ones. They're okay in a pinch, but tear easily and aren't very reusable. Outdoor stores and military surplus shops are a great place to find an adequate weather guard.





## Tools

It's easy to go overboard here, but try to rein it in. Apart from the flashlight and knife you should always have on your person every normal, non-disaster day, you'll need spare batteries, a larger camping knife which can be used for defense in a pinch, and given that this is likely going to be in an urban setting, a reliable multitool.

A quick word on your light: you might be tempted to pick a high-output light, and that's great, but bear in mind that at some point your batteries and your spares are going to burn out. When that happens, you're going to be hard-pressed to find CR123a or 18650 batteries. I carry a 1xAA light on my person, and have a 2xAA light in my BOB, and would suggest you do the same.

You'll need a way to make fire. Redundancy is great, so go with an easy way, such as a butane lighter, and a bulletproof method, such as a firesteel. Don't go rubbing two sticks together unless you have no other choice.

Cordage is important. You can make a shelter, lash things to other things, tie stuff up, and go places with it. A hundred-foot length of 550 paracord will go a long way. It's tough, versatile, and well worth the weight.

Lastly, bring a map. You might know your way around, but if your usual routes are blocked or inaccessible, you'll be glad to have a solid resource to consult.



## Weapons

Before anything else, remember this: You're trying to get away, or get to some other place, not preparing for war. You'll need just enough to defend yourself until you get to where you're going, where you ideally have a larger cache set

up. A handgun, maybe a pistol-caliber carbine/shotgun/carbine and a few full magazines, plus some loose rounds should be enough.

To put things in perspective, the two-person loadout we're putting together has two pistols, four magazines, and 100 rounds of 185gr 45ACP. Add to this, we have a shotgun, 50 shells of 00 buckshot; and 100 rounds of 115gr 9mm for a pistol-caliber carbine and its four magazines. The weight of ammo alone is 11.39 pounds, or the equivalent of five liters of water. Think less *Black Hawk Down*, more *The Road*. Within reason, it doesn't matter what firearm you choose, as long as you practice with it and can shoot it well.

If things get really hairy, remember that you have edged weapons in the form of both your folding and field knives.



## Miscellaneous items

Have a picture of family and friends for identification. A photo is the quickest way to have someone ID another person. Cash will be a big help too. While its value isn't guaranteed to last until the apocalypse, it will still be worth something as long as society is standing. Use it to bargain for items, or buy information or service. A length of duct tape, removed from the spool and rolled on itself is an essential item we carry around every day. If it moves, and it shouldn't, some tape will probably fix it temporarily. A waterproof marker and a sturdy field notebook will also be helpful, should you need to leave notes, or take instructions down.



## Pack up

Once you have everything together, you can finally pick a bag. While it is tempting to get a military-style pack, you might want to consider something a little more subtle and low-key. Letting people know you're as prepared as you are might draw unwanted attention, and the extras "tactical" gear offers, while useful, aren't necessarily essential to the civilian. As long as it's large enough to fit everything, comfortable enough to carry for days, and tough enough to make it to the end of the trip, you should be set.

This is by no means a comprehensive list. There's so much to cover, and many individual circumstances that cannot be accounted for in a single article. These are what I believe are the basics, and should be taken as guide more than anything else. You know your situation better than anyone, so take that into account.



# THE WITCHER 3 WILD HUNT

Words by Jose Alvarez

Developer: CD Projekt RED  
Publisher: WB Games (NA), cdp.pl (POL), Bandai Namco (PAL),  
Spike Chunsoft (JP), 1C Company (CIS), Megarom Interactive (SA)  
Platforms: PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One

Over the past few years, open-world adventure games have found favor with gamers. The *laissez-faire* attitude one can have with these types of games is one of the biggest reasons why gamers tend to lean towards open-world adventure games. For developers, it challenges them to create a bigger (if not better) game, pushing creativity and innovation to their utmost limits. On the business side, not only does the developer enjoy increased revenues from the purchase of their product, but people also have to buy a bigger, better machine to play these graphically intensive games. For example, Nvidia even released an update to their drivers that was custom-made specifically for *The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt* for those who chose to buy it on PC. That says a lot, considering most driver updates have catered to all types of games.





*The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt* continues with the tale of Geralt of Rivia, the protagonist of the series. The Wild Hunt invades the Northern Kingdoms, and only the Witchers, who have developed a reputation amongst the populace, can stop them. In the meantime, Geralt is searching for Ciri, who is like a daughter to him, and is linked to an ancient prophecy that is mentioned in the story. The Wild Hunt also seeks to use her for their own evil ends.

One of the biggest complaints I had when playing the game is the jittery nature of the camera as I moved around, but I could attribute this to perhaps my own outdated hardware. The *Witcher 3*'s hardware requirements are quite demanding, and my custom PC barely met the minimum specs. The developers prepared their own engine for the game, which is a sign that the spec requirements will be demanding. You can toy around with the graphics options in the settings, though you'll need a very high-end PC to set everything to Ultra and enjoy the great detail the developers put into the game.

The immense open world, which the developers have said is "bigger than *Skyrim*," gives the game high replay value. Thankfully, if you don't like walking from one end of the map to the other, there are fast travel points one can access. However, one should take time to savor what's going on in the world. There is a day and night system along with different weather, and these elements could have an impact on gameplay.

The combat system felt quite smooth. Geralt has access to sword and magic, and one must have quick reflexes when facing enemies, especially since they can gang up on you. You can fight your opponents with a steel or silver sword. The latter is generally used against monsters. You can also use magic to help yourself, hurt your enemies, or stun

them. One of the hardest weapons to master was the crossbow, but if you have lots of first-person shooter experience, it shouldn't be too difficult.

Every combat situation forces you to use all tools at your disposal. You have to master every aspect of fighting, especially at the later stages of the game and at higher difficulty levels. Sometimes, it might even be smarter to run away from enemies you can't beat.

Interaction with the world around you is immersive. You can talk to anyone in towns for quests or information, and use your Witcher senses to find things that others usually wouldn't see. Your interaction options will have consequences later on in the game, however, so choose wisely. The one thing I enjoyed about the game, however, is the aura of uncertainty when you make your choices. No answer seems to be the "right" answer, and unless you've played through the game multiple times, you won't find out.

While the main quest is interesting in itself, a lot of the side quests make it feel like you're playing a different game with a different storyline. Many of these side quests require you to kill a monster, hunt for treasure, and investigate certain areas. In many side quests, you'll be made to use your Witcher senses. This makes side quests have an investigative side to it, rather than just "Collect X number of items" or "Kill X number of monsters," which is often what side quests are relegated to in other RPGs. You can even haggle for payment for your services.

These side quests take you all over the map, leaving no stone unturned. The item creation system is simple and materials are easy to come across. However, an annoying part of the game is that weapons and armor can break, and unless you've been doing side quests, the repairs will seem quite expensive.

For those who enjoyed playing the game, CD Projekt RED announced two expansion packs: *Heart of Stone* and *Blood and Wine*, which will take place in the same game universe. These expansion packs are slated for release in late 2015 and early 2016, and Geralt will reprise his role as protagonist.

*The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt* is a good pickup, especially if you have a high-end PC and are willing to test its limits. Open-world adventure game fans will see it as another world to explore with rich story lines, expansive side quests, and a fluid combat system.



***Every combat situation forces you to use all tools at your disposal. You have to master every aspect of fighting, especially at the later stages of the game and at higher difficulty levels. Sometimes, it might even be smarter to run away from enemies you can't beat.***



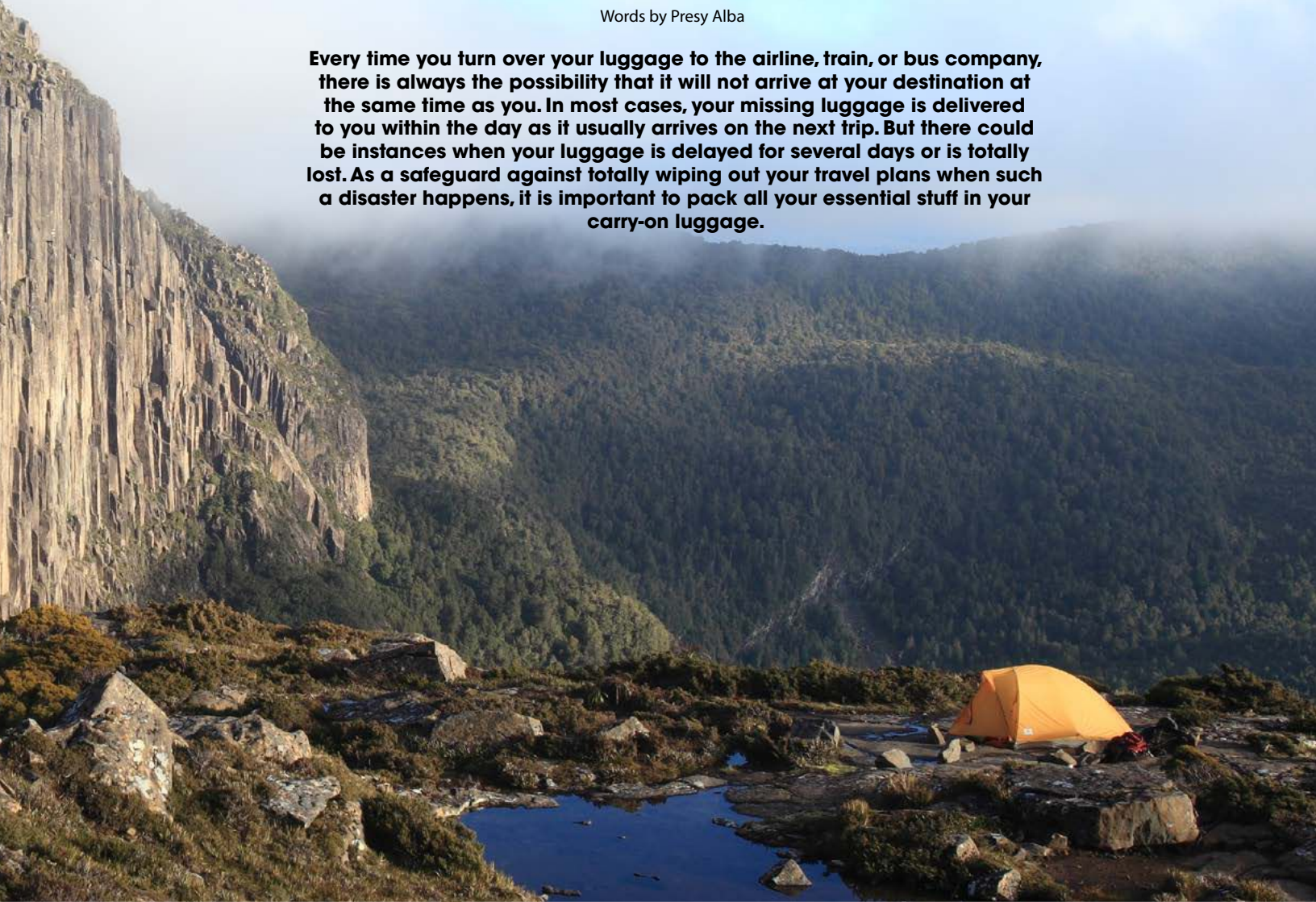




# Packing your Travel Survival Kit

Words by Presy Alba

Every time you turn over your luggage to the airline, train, or bus company, there is always the possibility that it will not arrive at your destination at the same time as you. In most cases, your missing luggage is delivered to you within the day as it usually arrives on the next trip. But there could be instances when your luggage is delayed for several days or is totally lost. As a safeguard against totally wiping out your travel plans when such a disaster happens, it is important to pack all your essential stuff in your carry-on luggage.





*Whether you are taking a plane, train, bus, or even driving, if the trip is more than eight hours, pack a bag that you keep near your person at all times to ensure that all your essential items are secure and that you will be comfortable for the duration of your trip.*

## CHOOSING THE BAG

I personally recommend a duffel or a backpack that you can just slip under the seat in front of you for the duration of the trip no matter how you travel.

Trolley bags are popular as carry-on luggage but are not very practical. On the plane, you will have to put it in the overhead bin, limiting access to your stuff. On the bus, the driver may not allow it in the cabin. If the train is packed, you will have to leave it outside in the baggage rack. And in the car, it will end up in the trunk with the rest of your luggage, defeating its purpose.

Duffel bags and backpacks can easily be stacked on top of the bigger trolley bag you checked in, allowing you better control and saving you from the trouble of having to maneuver two trolley bags after you claim your checked-in luggage.

Since there will be occasions when your carry-on will be out of your sight, safeguard it by putting in a padlock so no one can take out or put in anything without your knowledge.

## WHAT TO PACK:

For convenience, group items using separate containers, such as packing cubes or zippered packs. Also use smaller containers such as ziplock bags for items such as medication that you will consume at intervals.

### 1. Personal Documents and Money

If you intend to use a separate bag for your personal documents and money, I recommend using a PacSafe anti-theft bag to safeguard against pickpockets. These anti-theft bags have clip-on locks on zippers of the main compartment, making it difficult to open your bag without your knowledge. Put only valuables that you will need while in transit in this bag; the rest can be buried in a locked section of your other carry-on luggage.

- Passport and travel documents.
- Cash and credit cards—if possible, keep your currencies separate—whether in different sections of your wallet or in separate envelopes to avoid confusion.
- Mobile phone.

### 2. Personal Toiletries

Pack small containers of the items that you plan to use while in-flight or at rest stops into one small bag that you can take out from your carry-on to bring to the lavatory to freshen up.

- Personal hygiene: toothbrush and toothpaste, wet wipes, alcohol or hand sanitizer, deodorant, panty liners (for women).
- Personal care: comb or small brush, moisturizer, lotion, cologne, lip balm, hair clips and/or hair ties.
- Basic make-up including make-up remover.

### 3. Clothes

This is just an emergency pack in case you need to change clothes while on the road or if the rest of your baggage is delayed: underwear, extra shirts, a pair of lightweight pants (optional).

### 4. Food and Drink

Pack snack size packs of nuts, trailmix, and chocolates that will tide you over in case you get hungry while in transit. It is also practical to bring along one of those collapsible water bottles that you can refill after you pass through security check.

### 5. Comfort and Sleep Aids

To keep yourself comfortable during your long journey, pack the following: sleeping mask, inflatable neck pillow, warm socks, and shawl or light jacket. If sound disturbs you, bring along earplugs or wear earphones.

### 6. Entertainment and Gadgets

Most planes and long haul buses provide onboard entertainment but loading your iPad with eBooks, games, and videos will ensure you will never be bored during your trip. Just remember to also pack power cords and extra batteries so you can keep your gadgets charged.

### 7. Medication and Supplements

If you are taking prescription medication as maintenance, pack that in your carry-on bag with supplements and emergency medicine.

- All your prescription medicine.
- Vitamins and supplements to keep your energy and immune system up.
- Contingency medicines: pack a few tablets of paracetamol or ibuprofen for headaches, anti-diarrhea pills, and antacids in case you encounter any problems.

### 8. Other Valuables

- Jewelry. If you are bringing other jewelry in addition to what you are wearing on your person, pack them in the locked section of your carry-on luggage.
- Other gadgets. If, in addition to gadgets you plan to use in-flight or in-transit, you are also bringing other equipment such as a camera or a laptop, pack them in the locked but easily accessible section of your carry-on bag as these items have to be X-rayed separately during security checks.
- Backup documents. Keep your passport and tickets together, and keep photocopies of your passport and all travel documents, including itinerary and addresses of hotels in all of your luggage as backup, and for information in case your bag tags fall off and the authorities need to contact you.
- Backup money and credit cards. You may also want to stash some of your cash and back-up credit card in a separate, secure section of your carry-on luggage just as a precaution.

## TIP#1

If you are traveling by plane, you will have to consider the weight and security limitations:

- Some airlines limit carry-on weight to as low as 5kgs with maximum bag dimensions of 9x15x20 inches.
- All liquid items must be in 100ml containers maximum placed in clear ziplock containers.
- No sharp objects allowed.
- Gadgets and extra batteries must be in the carry-on luggage (not in the checked-in luggage).

## TIP#2

To safeguard your things, bring along at least two foldable lightweight bags that you can use as a catch-all for items you take out of your carry-on. This way, you only open your carry-on luggage at the beginning of your flight. Transfer everything you plan to use to the catch-all bag: your entertainment stuff, your meds and toiletries, etc. You can also use the second bag to bring to the lavatory with your toiletries and change of clothes.





# Why you need a UPS

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo | Art by Benedict Asal

**It's surprising (or isn't it?) that even though the Philippines has one of the most expensive electricity rates in the world, the power situation here is far from optimal. Infrastructure problems and a fluctuating energy grid are just some of the issues users face every time they plug in their computers. While we can't protect our wallets from the ever-increasing bills, we can protect our rigs from the dangers of surges, sags, and spikes with the help of an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS).**

## Safeguard your devices and data

I'm pretty sure we've all forced shut down our devices because of sheer frustration. I'm personally lucky that of the many times I did it, I've never experienced complete failure upon rebooting. But just like someone suddenly fainting and hitting their head, abruptly powering off our tech can lead to some serious damage. The shutdown sequence is there for a reason: it ensures that any running tasks are safely stopped so they're ready to run again. Sure, the proper way of doing it is a teeny bit longer than just pulling the plug, but losing a few seconds is better than losing that paper you've been cramming all night. Or your thesis. Or this article.

Because of the advancements in technology, power outages really only affect software and not hardware. This doesn't mean we're completely safe, however. Rapid voltage surges, spikes, and sags can and will fry your computer's motherboard and, subsequently, the RAM sticks, ports, graphics cards, storage drives, and processor. With typhoon season coming up, expect more of these anomalies as lightning strikes and winds batter transmission lines.

A regular surge protector can safeguard your system from these power anomalies, sure, but if you need something more substantial and infinitely more useful, you should get a UPS.

## Not just any UPS, but a quality one

While a surge protector acts as the first line of defense against voltage overloads, it's downright useless when it comes to sags and outages. That's where a UPS comes in. Not only do these sport a voltage regulator, they also arrive with backup batteries giving you a precious few minutes of steady power so you can safely wrap up your work.

If you're looking for a tried and tested name in the UPS market, look no further than APC. The company has recently made available two new Smart-UPS On-Line devices with up to 97-percent efficiency fit for anything from small-scale to large-scale systems and servers. These arrive in 5 to 10kVA and 6 to 10kVA variants in a rack/tower convertible form that can house matching battery packs for hours of emergency power.

The new Smart-UPS On-Line uses double conversion, on-line topology. Here, the inverter

continuously provides regulated power output when supply quality drops outside configurable ranges, meaning the UPS can be used to protect equipment from dips and spikes in voltage, variations in frequency, and most kinds of power interruptions. When not in this on-line mode, the Smart-UPS operates in a green mode with 97-percent efficiency.

The devices are also equipped with a graphical LCD with multi-color backlight, so users can check the UPS' status in real-time. Diagnostics and log information are also displayed to help identify power issues. To further enhance efficient operations and energy monitoring, the units feature a built-in Energy Meter, Intelligent Battery Management system with Predictive Battery Replacement, and fast charging capability.

The comprehensive support that the new Smart-UPS On-Line UPS can contribute will undoubtedly prove to be a boon to anyone seeking to minimize energy consumption costs and maximize a stable flow of electrical power. For additional confidence and peace of mind, the new Smart-UPS On-Line UPS units come with a three-year standard warranty.



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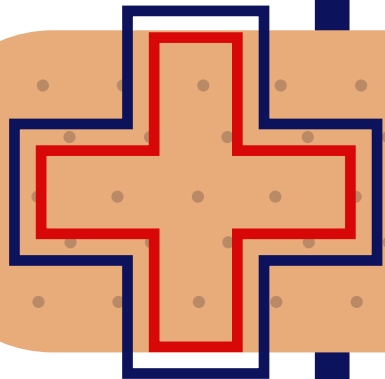
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# BAND-AID

Words by Jose Alvarez | Art by Leng Desuasido

Earle Dickson and Thomas Anderson are generally credited with the invention of the Band-Aid in 1920. Dickson's wife, Josephine, was accident-prone in the kitchen, and frequently burned and cut herself while cooking. The prototype Band-Aid gave her a means to dress her wounds without assistance.

OWEE

WAAAAHH!

OUCHIE!



**Exposing a wound to the open air for prolonged periods of time is generally not a good idea. It can be exacerbated if you have conditions such as diabetes. Thankfully, over time, people have found ways and means to dress wounds rather than leave them open and subject to infection. The Band-Aid is a sure way to treat smaller wounds.**

The initial idea for the Band-Aid came about because of a British surgeon named Sir Joseph Lister. In the 19th century, operating rooms in hospitals were dangerous places to be, and patients often died as a result of poor sanitary conditions even after they received treatment. Lister pushed for more sanitary operating rooms. In 1876, Lister went to the United States to express his views on germs. Although interest was limited, one of the audience members who heeded Lister's words was American pharmacist Robert Johnson, who founded Johnson & Johnson. Their first products were large dry cotton and gauze dressing, and were shipped in sterile packages. Another well-known Johnson & Johnson product was baby powder, which is still produced to this day as well.

Earle Dickson and Thomas Anderson are generally credited with the invention of the Band-Aid in 1920. Dickson's wife, Josephine, was accident-prone in the kitchen, and frequently burned and cut herself while cooking. The prototype Band-Aid gave her a means to dress her wounds without assistance. Dickson noticed that gauze stuck to a wound with tape did not stay on her fingers, so he used squares of gauze in intervals on a roll of tape held together with crinoline. Crinoline, which was (and still is) used on formal outfits (although its use was much greater in the 19th century) was noted for its durability and ability to stiffen garments, and it kept the prototype Band-Aids in place.

Dickson then passed the idea on to his superiors at Johnson & Johnson, who produced and marketed it. However, the Band-Aid was not very popular at first, because they were handmade. Only USD 3,000 worth of Band-Aids (USD 37,271.75 in 2015 dollars) were sold in the very first year. According to contemporary reports, the original Band-Aids were 2.5-inches wide and 18-inches long—much bigger than today's Band-Aid. Johnson & Johnson gave away free Band-Aids to the Boy Scouts, giving it a small boost in popularity. In 1924, Johnson & Johnson invented a machine that produced sterilized Band-Aids. They were able to mass-produce Band-Aids, and by 1938, the Band-Aid was completely sterile.

Band-Aids were shipped overseas during World War II, pushing brand recognition to an all-time high. As for Dickson, he rose all the way to vice president and even had a seat on the board of directors at Johnson & Johnson until his retirement in 1957. Dickson died in 1961, and at the time of his death, USD 30 million (USD 236,387,919.46 in 2015 dollars) of Band-Aids were sold annually. During Dickson's tenure, the plastic strip of Band-Aids was introduced. Decorative Band-Aids and clear Band-Aids were also produced. By 1958, they were produced in sheer vinyl instead of the tape/crinoline blend. The Band-Aid was even taken into space in 1963.

The 1970s were a booming time for the brand—celebrities such as actress Brooke Shields, actor John Travolta, and tennis player Chris Evert were featured in Band-Aid commercials. By the late 1980s, Band-Aids were sold in Eastern Europe.

A charity band also named Band Aid (possibly inspired by the brand) was formed in 1984, with Bob Geldof of Irish band The Boomtown Rats heading the group. Geldof was able to get popular musicians such as Phil Collins, Sting, Bono, Boy George, Paul McCartney, and David Bowie. Bands such as Kool & The Gang and Duran Duran also participated. The group raised money for food to help alleviate the Ethiopian famine of 1983-85.

In the 1990s, Band-Aid introduced Sport Strip bandages that stuck even on sweaty surfaces. 1997 saw the launch of antibiotic Band-Aids. The antibiotic Band-Aids had an antibiotic ointment right on the pad so that the healing process could be accelerated.

The 2000s saw technology and medicine reach its peak. Band-Aid Advanced Healing and Liquid Bandages were introduced, and the website **band-aid.com** was also launched as well. Today, Band-Aids are sold all over the world and help people heal from minor wounds and cuts, and are a staple of any first aid kit that you might bring with yourself into the wild.



# Globe enters multi-year partnership with Disney

On May 6, 2015, Globe Telecom together with the Walt Disney Company Southeast Asia announced its multi-year partnership to give Filipino customers access to video-on-demand, interactive content, promotions, and other related services across multiple devices.

Through the partnership, customers will now have access to a wide selection of Disney content offerings which includes long- and short-form programming, interactive content and games, theatrical releases, and retail promotions.

Customers can enjoy the following services:

- **Disney Movies On Demand (DMOD):** an on-demand subscription service for selected classic Disney and Pixar titles such as the Toy Story franchise, Finding Nemo, The Princess Diaries, Mickey's Once Upon A Christmas, Cinderella and much more.
- **Disney On Demand (DOD):** an on-demand subscription service for selected Disney TV favorites such as Mickey Mouse Clubhouse, Phineas & Ferb.
- **Maker On Demand:** an on-demand subscription service featuring the best short-form videos from Maker Studios' portfolio of content across gaming, comedy, music, sports, fashion, and family, to name a few, featuring popular talent from Makers' network of 55,000 creators globally.
- **Disney Interactive:** a world of mobile and web-based games, apps and e-books based on the best-loved Disney stories.
- **Watch Disney Channel apps:** entertainment apps which provide access to Disney Channel, Disney Junior and Disney XD. Kids and Family can enjoy all the three Disney Channels via this digital destination.
- Maker and Globe will also team up to create custom branded entertainment featuring top digital influencers supporting the Globe service.
- Users will also receive news about promotions, merchandising, and retail activations that bring Disney's latest theatrical releases closer to Filipinos.



Globe Telecom is now officially the proud partner of Disney Family Entertainment with brands including Pixar, Star Wars, Marvel and global leader in short-form video, Maker Studios. Celebrating the partnership are (L-R) Globe senior advisor for Consumer Business Dan Horan, Globe President and CEO Ernest Cu, Disney's Minnie Mouse and Mickey Mouse, special guest and Disney legend Lea Salonga, and managing director, The Walt Disney Company Southeast Asia, Rob Gilby.

"We are very happy to enter into a relationship with such an iconic brand. Everyone loves Disney—that's why we are excited to bring the brand closer to Filipinos and give the best content experience on their devices anytime, anywhere. We know that our customers are equally excited

to get into the wide portfolio of Disney content such as movies, TV shows, games, merchandising, theatrical releases, and interactive videos available across our mobile and broadband services," said Dan Horan, Globe senior advisor for Consumer Business.



GUESTS GOT TO EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENT DISNEY BRANDS SUCH AS PIXAR, MARVEL, STAR WARS, AND MAKER, THROUGH VARIOUS INTERACTIVE BOOTHS AND ACTIVITIES.

# Smart announces new video data bundles



**Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) has just announced the availability of its new video data plans. With this new development, Smart subscribers can now watch YouTube videos, as well as enjoy content from Dailymotion, Vimeo, Viewstream, Skype Qik, and Dubsmash on their mobile phones, whenever, wherever.**

"Smart is thrilled to make online video content more affordable and accessible to Filipinos, who are avid viewers of YouTube's trending music videos, viral clips, and online sensations," said Michele Curran, first vice president and head for Data Services at Smart.

"Now, Smart subscribers can enjoy YouTube and other online videos like Dailymotion, Vimeo, Viewstream, Skype Qik, and Dubsmash wherever they want through affordable 'sachets,' designed to suit their mobile lifestyle and budget."

Smart's video streaming packages start with **YouTube5**. This gives subscribers 65MB of data for 15 minutes of standard definition video streaming on mobile phones, valid for one day, for PHP 5. **YouTube25**, on the other hand, allows users to consume 160MB of data for 35 minutes of standard definition video streaming on mobile phones, valid for one day, for PHP 25.

For those who frequent the popular video streaming site, they have **YouTube50**. This gives them access to 400MB of data for 90 minutes of standard definition video streaming, valid for over three days at only PHP 50.

Lastly, **YouTube199**, provides 270 minutes of standard definition video streaming, valid for over 30 days at PHP 199.

Those subscribed to the aforementioned bundles can also view their favorite videos on Vimeo, Dailymotion, and Viewstream, exchange quick video messages to friends via Skype Qik, and create content on Dubsmash.

To subscribe to the bundles above, users can simply text **YOUTUBES5; YOUTUBE25; YOUTUBE50; or YOUTUBE199 to 9999**. They can also dial **\*121#**—Smart's easy access number for all promos. Upon successful registration, subscribers will get an instant notification of their subscription, which shall be charged against their prepaid load or billed on top of their monthly service fee.

Once their video data bundle subscription has been fully consumed, Smart Prepaid subscribers will be directed to a paywall or receive a notification.

For more information on Smart's latest promo and services, visit **smart.com.ph** and follow its official accounts on Facebook (**www.facebook.com/SmartCommunications**) and Twitter (**@SMARTCares**).

# Buy an Epson textile printer, get a free Apple iMac

**Epson Philippines will be bundling the Epson SureColor F7170 textile printer with a free 21.5-inch Apple iMac from May 15 to June 30, 2015. The F7170 is designed for the roll-to-roll digital textile market and integrates true roll-to-roll support for improved performance, reliability, and image quality for fabric and soft signage printing.**

The printer takes advantage of Epson's PrecisionCore thin film piezo (TFP) print head, and uses Epson's UltraChrome DS ink system for high-quality outputs, superior dot control, and excellent longevity for a range of dye-sublimation applications.

Additionally, the Epson F7170 has a highly accurate take-up reel and substrate system for winding accuracy between 0 and 0.19-inches on transfer paper rolls, including decorative table tops and runners, point-of-purchase (POP) banners, exhibit displays, home furnishings, fabric patterns, apparel manufacturing, and more. Built for increased productivity, Epson's textile

printer also features a high-capacity ink tank system with refillable tanks to allow continuous printing through a full roll of media, as well as a new post-platen heater for faster drying times. The printer also arrives with a Wasatch SoftRIP TX that enables users to start printing output immediately out of the box with specialty features for textile printing.

The Epson F7170 is fully compatible with Epson's line of dye-sublimation transfer papers, including DS Transfer Production paper, DS Transfer Adhesive Textile, and DS Transfer Multipurpose. The printer is designed to work exclusively with Epson UltraChrome DS Ink and not with other brands of inks or cartridges.

The promo is valid nationwide. The participating dealers for this promo include: Globis Inc., Computer Graphics Inc., Bridge Distribution Inc., Gakken Philippines, Imageworld Signs, Cebu Juntrade, St. Jude Consulting, and Tekpone Enterprise.

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# Asus ZenFone 2 Hits PH

**Following its successful SEA launch in Jakarta, Indonesia, Asus has officially rolled out its much-anticipated flagship smartphone in the Philippine market.**

The latest iteration of the ZenFone features an ergonomic design paired with hardware that packs a mean punch. The local launch gathered a whopping number of consumers, dealers, and media at the World Trade Center, eagerly waiting to get their hands on the ZenFone 2.

Some of the features that make this iteration exceptional are a 13MP PixelMaster camera, Android 5.0 Lollipop OS, a 64-bit Intel Atom Z3580 processor, and 4GB RAM, let me repeat that, 4GB of RAM. Also, users get to enjoy blazing fast internet speeds with its Intel LTE-Advanced modem that makes for reliable 4G/LTE connectivity.

On the outside, the ZenFone 2 sports a gorgeous sleek, brushed-metal finish, and concentric-circle



detailing, along with new refinements such as a curved case all in an incredibly-thin 3.9mm frame. It also comes with a 5.5-inch Full HD IPS+ screen that provides a maximized viewing experience in the palm of your hand. Powering the ZenFone 2's many features is a 3000mAh battery, more than enough juice to get you through the day.

The Zenfone 2 is available in all authorized resellers nationwide. Two ZenFone 2 variants will be shipped locally; the ZE551ML will sell for PHP 9,995, PHP 13,995, and PHP 14,995 for the 16GB, 32GB, and 64GB variants, respectively. The 5-inch ZenFone 2 variant (ZE500CL), on the other hand, will retail for PHP 7,995.

## Brother Philippines holds training to help SMEs make profit from needlework

**Brother Philippines recently held product demos and hands-on training on the use of their embroidery machines for entrepreneurs from MIMAROPA and Bicol at the Lake Hotel in Tagaytay City. The initiative is in hopes of helping SMEs turn needlework into profitable business by equipping them to make the most out of their Brother machine.**

Shigeyoshi Hirayama, product specialist for the Personal & Home Company of Brother Industries, Ltd. and Terry Liu, technical engineer for the Customer Service Department of Brother International Singapore Pte Ltd. led the hands-on product demonstration and seminar.

"This workshop is a forum for all existing, prospective, and future Brother embroidery machine customers. It's a year-round nationwide caravan that becomes Brother's outlet in providing information about our products. It also gives us an opportunity to hear out the concerns and suggestions of our customers," said Elenor Garcia, product specialist for Brother Philippines.

Lt. Edwin B. Martinez opted for an early retirement at 49 and opened Snappy Computerized Patches and Martinez Tailoring.

"My wife is a seamstress. When I was still in the service, I borrowed around PHP 300,000 to open a military supplies business near

the camp in Camarines Sur. She sews the uniforms of the army but all the other accessories—the patches, logos, and name tags—were done by someone else. It was very burdensome for her and so I decided to buy her an embroidery machine. I got her the Brother PR650e. It was a wise investment for us," he said.

In less than a year, Martinez was able to earn back his entire capital. Such is also the case with husband and wife business partners Silvano and Joy Malay, who at their mid-40s were able to retire and become full-time entrepreneurs because of the success of their Y2JB Haberdashery.

One product featured during the course of the training is the Brother PR655 which is a semi-industrial embroidery machine. Its six-needle system, spacious 200mm x 300mm embroidery area, and automatic threading make it the ideal machine for custom-made barongs, wedding gowns, company uniforms, and personalized branding. Other state-of-the-art features of the Brother PR655 embroidery machine include advanced

natural lighting system, adjustable stitch speed, 28 built-in fonts, and LED pointer.

"We at Brother Industries are always looking for ways to provide convenience to our customers, whether it is for home or business, or for sewing machines or printers. In helping Filipinos maximize their creative and entrepreneurial potential, we also strive to provide customers topnotch service, as part of our mission for Brother's Customer Plus program which we just recently launched," said Brother Philippines president Glenn Hocson.



# Illegal camcording no more as PH celebrates World IP Day

In commemoration of the 2015 World Intellectual Property Day, various local and international agencies banded together to celebrate the Philippines' removal from the US Special 301 Watchlist and to announce that film pirates are running out of places to hide.

"Motion picture and video constitute a core part of our copyright-based industries (CBIs). CBIs, as shown in the 2014 study of the World Intellectual Property Organization, have significant contribution to the Philippine economy at 7.34 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and 14.14 percent to employment. To support the industry, we continue to step up awareness and enforcement efforts against movie piracy," said Atty. Allan B. Gepty, Deputy Director-General at the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPO).

During 2010, almost 40 camcording incidents have been traced back to the Philippines. Though the number went down to around 15 last year, two camcords have already been detected this 2015: one for the *Marvel's Avengers: Age of Ultron* and another for DreamWorks Animation's *Home*. Local films such as *That Thing Called Tadhana* were also illegally recorded.

The Optical Media Board (OMB), Motion Picture Association (MPA), PNP-Criminal Investigation and



(FROM LEFT): PAUL INGRAM, GENRIC ASIA SECURITY AND RISK OPERATIONS FOR MPA IN THE PHILIPPINES; BRIAN BREUHAUS, US EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER; RONNIE RICKETTS, OMB CHAIRMAN; ATTY. MAYET DAGSA, IPO PHILIPPINES; AND COR. NILO PAGTALLUNAN, PNP-CIDG.

Detection Group (CIDG), and IPO have identified the key piracy syndicates earlier this year and are coordinating efforts to apprehend their activities. Film exhibitors have also improved security, training, and engagement with the MPA while improving camcording detection technologies. According to OMB Chair Ronnie Ricketts,

As we commemorate and celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day, the OMB reaffirms its explicit mandate in the promotion and protection of intellectual property rights by continuously enforcing the laws, regulating, prosecuting, and educating the public on the intricacies of preventing piracy."

## Spotify and Globe introduces Emerge program in PH

**Spotify, in partnership with Globe Telecom, has just launched its first Asian artist talent hunt in the Philippines, Emerge. The program, started by Spotify, places local artists in the spotlight and pits them against each other to see who would shine and succeed as the next big OPM act.**

Dan Horan, senior advisor for Consumer Business at Globe, said, "The Philippines is home to some of the world's best artists and performers, and Globe is very happy to be working with Spotify on this program. Spotify Emerge aims to discover music's next big act and expose the wonderful talents of Filipino musicians to the rest of the world. As the purveyor of the Filipino digital lifestyle where we give customers access to their passions such as music on their devices, we are excited to see Filipinos conquering the centerstage once again using the power of technology with Spotify Emerge."

Spotify Emerge leverages on Spotify's pool of data to identify ten emerging artists from the region based on their level of 'virality'. The winner will be determined through the help of Spotify users via streams, follows, and shares.

The ten rising stars vying for Emerge supremacy in the Philippines are December Avenue, Jeric Medina, Kai Honasan, Kito Romualdez, Marion Aunor, Midnight Meetings, Paolo Valenciano, Save Me Hollywood, Shehyee, and The Ransom Collective.

This platform enable users to watch the competition play out on the dedicated Emerge website, which features an engaging graphic timeline where the artists who attract the most attention and listens are placed on a pedestal as a reward. The list of ten up-and-coming acts will be trimmed down each week until a winner is picked.

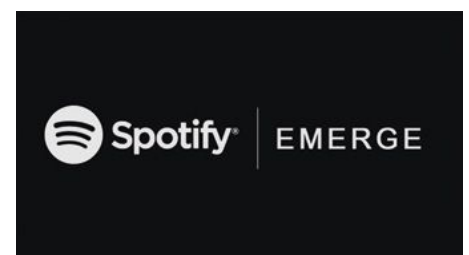
Notably, past participants of the Emerge program in other countries include the likes of Lorde, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, and alt-J. Meanwhile, brands who have collaborated with Spotify Emerge in other markets include Chevrolet and American Family Insurance.

"We're thrilled to be launching Spotify's first Emerge program in Asia to the Philippines, our fastest-growing market in the region and a country with a rich history of music talent," said Chee Meng Tan, director of Label Relations, Spotify (APAC).

"We want to shine a light on the very best emerging artists, giving them a huge global platform to showcase their talent by harnessing Spotify's unique access to data and technology."

Globe customers can access Spotify Emerge on the Spotify app, and enjoy it best with Spotify Premium. To register to Spotify Premium, Globe postpaid and prepaid customers can text **SP 129** to **8888**.

Log on to **ph.spotifyemerge.com** where you can stream, vote, share, and find out more about the ten music acts involved.





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## Epson PH country manager to head region and two other SEA countries

**Toshimitsu Tanaka, current Epson Philippines Corporation's (EPC) president and country manager, is taking on a new task starting this June 2015. In addition to leading EPC, Tanaka will hold concurrent positions as managing director of Epson's Regional office (Epson Singapore Pte. Ltd.), president director of Epson Thailand, and director of Epson Indonesia.**

The movement according to Seiko Epson Corporation (SEC) will help establish a management structure that will enable the corporation fulfil its goals as it enters the final year of both its SE15 Corporate Vision and the second half of its SE15 Mid-Range Business Plan. Also, this will aid it to accelerate management decisions based on maximizing corporate value and ensuring good corporate governance.

Notably, Tanaka joined SEC's System Devices Sales and Marketing Department in April 1981, after graduating in Waseda University with a degree in Bachelor in Economics. From 1997 to 2003, Tanaka was relocated to Epson's South and Southeast Asia regional headquarters in Singapore to lead regional sales initiatives as the sales director for System Devices. Within that period, he was key to the achievement of several milestones such as securing a high value Ministry



of Education tender project in Malaysia in 2002—of which entailed 20,000 units of projectors for classrooms. In 2003, he returned to the SEC global department where he was promoted to general manager after a year. Come 2007, Tanaka was appointed as general manager for the Imaging Products Sales & Marketing Support Department. Fast forward to July 2012, Tanaka became the head of Epson Philippines. During his term, Tanaka was able to strengthen the Epson brand along with creating new business models to fit

the local requirement, and leading the company in achieving market share and value share leadership in the inkjet printer, projectors, and business systems categories.

Tanaka's 34-year tenure with SEC and its affiliate companies, as well as his comprehensive knowledge in the field of economics, served as valuable assets to many accomplishments during his various assignments. Tanaka is married with two children; on his spare time, he enjoys golf, baseball, and skiing.

## More great music coming your way; LG Electronics announces team up with Spotify



Access  Spotify

via LG Smart TV or LG smartphone and connect with LG MusicFlow



**LG Electronics has recently teamed up with Spotify in the hopes of bringing a greater music experiences to Filipinos this summer season.**

Our go-to music streaming service, *Spotify* now offers *Spotify Connect*. This new feature, exclusive to premium users, enables them to play tunes from *Spotify's* standard PC or mobile app via Wi-Fi connected speakers, TVs, laptops,

and other devices. Also, with the *Spotify* application installed on your mobile device, users are given the ability to browse music, skip tracks, and adjust volume among others from a distance as it conveniently doubles as a remote control.

The *Spotify Connect* feature can be enjoyed with the LG Music Flow P7, a portable Bluetooth and Wi-Fi-capable speaker which

amplifies music streamed from a smartphone and other devices.

LG also recently announced that *Spotify* is now available on the *webOS* Smart+ TV platform. This addition will enable *Spotify Premium* users to access uninterrupted music and easy access to over 30 million tracks, artist pages, playlists, and new releases.

"We are thrilled to be working with LG Electronics to provide the best home entertainment experience possible powered by *Spotify Connect*," said Sunita Kaur, managing director (Asia), Spotify. "*Spotify* makes it easier to connect millions of music fans with their favorite OPM and international hits."

"It is an honor to partner with a global leader in music streaming to bring more seamless and enjoyable music experiences to Filipinos," LG Philippines Home Entertainment vice president Hoony Bae added. "With the help of *Spotify*, the LG *webOS* Smart+ TV platform and LG Music Flow P7 allow our consumers to discover exciting and convenient entertainment options, bringing the good life closer with great music."



# Petron bags Anvil Gold Legacy Award



**Only two years after bagging the Anvil Hall of Fame Award, industry leader Petron Corporation marked another milestone as it bagged the Gold Legacy Award from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) for its Vision Petron Art Collaterals. Petron, one of only three awardees, was recognized at the 50th Anvil Awards for its consistent wins over the years. The Anvil is the symbol of excellence in public relations in the Philippines.**

Petron has won nine Excellence and one Merit Award for its Vision Petron Collaterals, a set of printed materials that accompany every Vision Petron National Student Art Competition. In 2001, its first set of collaterals depicting indigenous Filipino games, earned the very first Bronze Award of Excellence from Anvil. It won during the same year the Bronze Anvil from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).

Apart from the Anvil Gold Legacy Award, the market leader also earned Silver Awards for the Vision Petron 2014 Program and the Vision Petron 2014 Folio. The 2014 Vision Petron competition, themed "Lakbay Panata—My Journey, My Pledge," produced a record 2,827 entries submitted in the various competition categories. Now celebrating its 15th year, Vision Petron is a multi-awarded annual art competition for students enrolled in colleges and universities all over the country.

Formerly Art Petron, the program evolved into Vision Petron in 2011 to accommodate more art media, such as t-shirt art design and video-making, in addition to painting and photography.

Meanwhile, Petron's trademark Lakbay Alalay motorist assistance program also earned a Gold Anvil Award in the Specialized Public Relations Program: Advocacy Campaign category, and a Silver Anvil Award in the Public Relations Program Directed at Specific Stakeholders: External Consumers category. Lakbay Alalay is the country's longest running motorist assistance, and is entering its 30th year of public service.

As the only and biggest Filipino fuel refiner, Petron has a deep understanding of the needs of Filipino motorists, and takes pride in its capability to formulate world-class products. Petron now has the largest service station network in the Philippines with about 2,200 stations nationwide. These range from mega stations with many convenience facilities and partner establishments located along the expressways, to small, strategically-located micro-filling stations in remote, rural locations—all designed to bring Petron closer and more accessible to Filipino motorists from all walks of life.



# Petron Fuels & Engine Oils: The Best Match for Your Ride

**As the only and biggest Filipino refiner, Petron has a deep understanding of the unique driving conditions on Philippine roads, and it takes pride in formulating products that will deliver optimum efficiency for Filipino motorists.**

Engine oils are essential to ensure efficient operation of gasoline and diesel engines. They have two primary functions: to minimize friction and to prevent wear on the moving parts of engines. In addition, engine oils also act as a coolant, protect metal parts from corrosion, and prevent formation of engine deposits.

While all engine oils perform basically the same function, how well a particular product does so is determined by its quality, notably the components that go into the oil blend. Petron engine oils, which are specially formulated to enhance the performance of all types of engines based on local conditions, have been subjected to international laboratory testing to meet world-class benchmarks.

**Petron Ultron Gasoline Engine Oils** contain the Thermal Stress Stabilizing System (TS3) that keeps the oil stable even at extreme temperatures, providing ultimate protection from engine stress while maintaining superior engine cleanliness. Petron Ultron oils have undergone widely-accepted international

engine tests to demonstrate its excellent performance on engine stress protection, engine cleanliness and thermal stability.

Based on an actual test on a Porsche 997 engine, Petron Ultron provided effective protection against wear. It also delivered excellent control on sludge and varnish formation in an actual Sequence VG test. Its ability to provide superior engine cleanliness was proven when it was tested on a Volkswagen T4 engine. Viscosity tests also showed that Petron Ultron Oils are stable at both low and high operating temperatures.

Complementing Petron Ultron is a range of Petron gasoline fuels for all types of vehicles, such as: Petron Blaze 100 Euro 4 that meets European quality standards; Petron XCS with complete combustion system; Petron Xtra Advance 93 octane to help you go the extra miles; and Petron Super Xtra 91 octane for super savings.

**Petron REV-X Diesel Engine Oils** are formulated with the Dynamic Cleaning Technology (DC Tech), which provides excellent engine cleanliness and engine protection for long drain performance and longer engine life. It meets and exceeds the stringent requirements of international engine tests designed for diesel-fed vehicles. Petron REV-X engine oils were tested for engine cleanliness and engine protection. An actual Volvo VDS-2 field test was also conducted

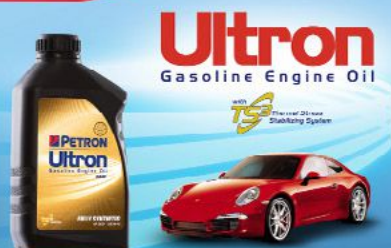
to demonstrate the longer and extended drain performance of Petron REV-X engine oils. To get the most out of your diesel engine, use only Petron's hi-tech diesel fuels: Petron Turbo Diesel for high performance vehicles, and Petron Diesel Max for improved fuel economy and reduced emissions.

**Petron Sprint 4T Motorcycle Oils** are designed to meet the unique performance requirements of four-stroke motorcycles. Unlike passenger cars, motorcycle engines require lower oil volume, have higher power output, and operate at higher engine speeds. Petron Sprint 4T oils are formulated with Thermal Control System (TCS) to enhance the oil's thermal and oxidation stability, which are critical for motorcycle engines due to their unique operational requirements.

All Petron Engine Oils are offered in different viscosity grades and quality levels to cater to all types of engines operating under various conditions. What makes Petron engine oils stand out are the unique formulations that have been designed by Filipino engineers who best understand the needs and requirements of the local market.

Petron believes in giving everyone the best fuel and engine oil for your driving requirements. Optimize your vehicle's performance. Use Petron Engine Oils with Petron Fuels.

## **PETRON ENGINE OILS** Optimize your vehicle's performance. Use Petron Engine Oils with Petron Fuels.



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# SHARP

## BEYOND UHD EXPERIENCE

Comparing Quattron Pro model (LC-70LE960X) with our UHD model (LC-70UD1X)



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**AQUOS**  
Quattron Pro



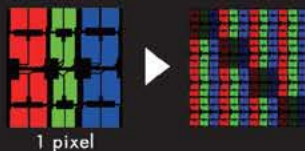
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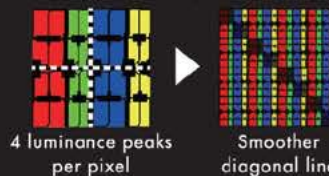
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